

# THE ATHENÆUM

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No. 595.

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**THE QUARTERLY REVIEW, No. CXXVI.**  
will be published at the end of the Month.

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**THE EDINBURGH UNIVERSITY MAGAZINE.** No. 1, for MARCH. To be continued Monthly. Edinburgh: Fraser & Crawford. London: Henry Washbourne; and W. Curry, jun. & Co. Dublin.

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11. STEVENS on Lithotomy.  
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14. LOMBARD on Pulmonary Emphysema.

15. THOMAS'S Address to the Birmingham School.  
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3. COOPER'S and HOOPER'S DICTIONARIES.  
4. KINNIS on Vaccination in Ceylon.  
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16. SELECTIONS FROM THE BRITISH, AMERICAN, and FOREIGN JOURNALS.  
17. MEDICAL INTELLIGENCE.

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**INCIDENTS OF TRAVEL IN THE RUSSIAN AND TURKISH EMPIRES.**  
By J. L. STEPHENS, Esq.  
Author of 'Incidents of Travel in the Holy Land, Egypt, &c.' &c. 3 vols. 15s.  
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## REVIEWS

*Invasions of the Saracens, &c.*—[*Invasions des Sarrazins en France, &c., pendant le huitième et dixième Siècle, &c.*] By M. Reinaud. Paris. London, Bossange & Co.

UNTIL of late years, the history of the Arabs, a people which, issuing from the deserts of Arabia, overspread the world, and conquered in less than a century more kingdoms than had formerly composed either the Greek or the Roman empire, was but imperfectly known; and we were little better informed respecting their origin, their laws, their civil and military institutions, their manners, customs, and literature, and that of the countries they subdued and kept possession of for centuries, than of those of the wild hordes inhabiting the boundless tracts of northern Asia. But this is the age of research, and of late more has been done to illustrate their history and that of their settlements, both in the east and west, than could reasonably be expected, considering the scarcity of materials and the difficulty of the subject.

In the investigation of so important a question, attention was naturally turned towards Spain, for on that portion of the European continent the Arabs early planted their victorious banners, and the name of Allah, and his messenger Mohammed, resounded for a period of eight centuries. Spain had been the centre of a powerful empire, extending on one side into the very heart of Europe, and reaching on the other the sandy deserts of Africa,—it was the starting point of those formidable expeditions, which, penetrating far into France, and advancing even to Italy, Piedmont, and Switzerland, had often threatened the overthrow of the Christian nations; and lastly, it was the abode of a people who had reached the highest degree of civilization and refinement, while the rest of Europe remained in darkness and barbarism, to whom we are indebted not only for the sciences of the Greeks, which they preserved and improved, but for many of the most useful arts. At the same time the curiosity of the studious was not a little stimulated by the obscurity, which, owing to the negligence of former writers, still hung over the most important events in the history of the Spanish Arabs; for, though their history is so intimately connected with that of the Spaniards,—though the abundance of authentic documents deposited in the national archives and public libraries of Spain promised an ample reward to the researches of the antiquarian, the Spanish writers, with an insensibility which can only be imputed to religious bigotry, generally rejected those valuable sources of information, and, borrowing their narrative entirely from national authorities, followed each other through a maze of error and fiction. It was not until the end of the last century, that the learned Casiri did somewhat towards the dissipation of this obscurity, by his catalogue of the Arabic manuscripts contained in the library of the Escorial; and that his countryman Conde, by availing himself of the same treasures, compiled more recently (in 1818) his history of the Arabs in Spain, throwing thereby great light on that of the Peninsula. Conde's work has since been translated into almost every European language, and we owe to his translators the correction of many errors, with which, from the author's untimely death, his volumes abounded. But our stock of information was far from being complete; and it was to be hoped that the subsequent labours of writers versed in the language and literature of the Arabs, would remove entirely the veil which still covered the history of that extraordinary people, and which hung also

over the political and intellectual condition of Europe during the middle ages.

Forty years after the Mohammedan flight, the Arabs had subdued the richest and largest portion of Asia: but their military ardour, far from being tamed by the possession of so many kingdoms, received fresh vigour from every new conquest; and the same impetuous spirit which had carried them towards the wilds of Tartary, now made them plunge fearlessly into the sandy ocean of Africa. By the order of Othman, the second Khalif, Abdallah, son of Said, the boldest horseman of Arabia, invaded that country at the head of forty thousand fanatics, and in less than fifteen months the deserts of Barca and Marmaria, once so formidable to the Roman legions, were entirely overrun, their cities and fortresses subdued, and the inhabitants either massacred or carried into captivity. Twenty years after, Okbah Ibn Nafia continued the conquest; Carthage, still the proud capital of Africa, was laid in the dust; and the whole country, from the Pillars of Hercules to the farthest limits of Sudan or Nigritia, acknowledged the laws of the conqueror, who, on reaching the sea shore opposite to the Canary Islands, is said to have plunged his horse into the waves of the Atlantic, and to have exclaimed—"Oh, Almighty God, were not my progress stopped by the deep waters of this element, I would still advance to other regions, and carry thither the knowledge of thy name and religion!" Under the successors of this enterprising warrior, Tangiers, Ceuta, Arsis, and other fortresses situated along the shore of the Mediterranean, and garrisoned by the Goths, were speedily subdued; and sixty years after the invasion, under the government of Músa Ibn Nusseyr, the Arabs, established in the wide continent of Africa, found there no more enemies to fight, no more lands to subdue.

The immediate causes, and most of the incidents of the conquest of Spain, are, like all national catastrophes, involved in a fabulous obscurity. On the one side, the traditions of the vanquished Goths, and, on the other, the marvellous accounts of the Arabs, have given rise to so many legends, as to make it a task of the greatest difficulty for the historian to steer his course through the maze of error and fiction in which the meagre narrative of the early chroniclers is all but lost. But, without crediting the wonderful accounts, whether of the Arabs or Goths, of the vices of King Roderic, or the treason of Count Julian, the sober-minded reader who peruses, with due attention, the early chronicles, will find ample motives of inducement in the geographical situation of Spain, and its political and civil condition, at that time, for a warlike nation,—whose thirst for enterprise was rather sharpened than abated by the subjection of Africa,—to undertake a less dangerous, and, at the same time, more profitable conquest. The necessity of giving employment to the motley tribes of Barbary, daily flocking to the standard of the Prophet; the various reports of the fertility of the soil, the genial climate, and the reputed wealth of the country—no doubt exaggerated by renegades and deserters; the spirit of division and discord reigning in the Gothic monarchy; and, lastly, the proffered assistance of the Jews, may be noted among the probable causes which led to that catastrophe. On the 30th day of April, A.D. 711, Tárik Ibn Zeyád, a freedman of Músa, the governor of Africa, landed, with a small but chosen body of troops, at the foot of the rock which received afterwards his name,† and, two months after his disembarkation, that memorable battle was fought, which decided the fate of the Gothic monarchy.

† Gibraltar, being a corruption of Jebel-tárik.

Whether Roderic died, as some say, the death of the brave, or retired, as others pretend, to a convent in Portugal, there to hide his shame, and drag on a miserable existence, is a point much contested among historians. Tárik followed up his conquest,—and Cordova, Granada, Jaen, and Malaga fell into his hands, or those of his lieutenants; and before his master, Músa—who was now hastening to take the field, with a considerable force—could overtake him, the valiant general had subdued the most populous cities in Spain; and Toledo itself, the capital of the Gothic monarchy, had opened its gates to him. On the arrival of Músa, the tide of conquest and devastation was directed towards the south of Spain, and such among its more distant provinces as were still untouched. Seville was besieged and reduced; Carmona and the neighbouring towns shared the same fate. Merida, the ancient metropolis of Spain, and second only to Toledo in size, in the magnificence of its temples and public buildings, and the wealth of its inhabitants, was next invested, and, after a desperate resistance, surrendered to the conqueror. In short, the whole kingdom, with the exception of the mountainous districts in the north, was subdued with that rapidity which forms the characteristic of Arab conquest.

When the conquest of Spain was achieved, the eyes of the Arabs were naturally turned towards the extensive countries lying on the other side of the Pyrenean range,—countries totally unknown to them, and from which their love of adventure, and the accounts of the subdued Spaniards, made them anticipate a rich harvest of booty and plunder. Gothic Gaul became the theatre, at first of slight incursions, or predatory inroads, but, in the course of time, of those dreaded invasions, by which the fate of Christian Europe was more than once endangered, and which, for a period of nearly two centuries, spread havoc and desolation over the southern provinces of France. For the narrative of these wars, compiled both from Christian and Mohammedan writers,—a subject of the greatest interest, hitherto untouched—we are indebted to the able pen of M. Reinaud, already well known in the literary world, by translations from the Arabic, and other works connected with Oriental history and literature.

According to the Arabian writers, the first invasion of the French territory is said to have taken place in the days of Músa: this general is reported to have crossed the Pyrenees, ravaged Languedoc, and seized on the city of Narbonne. If we are to rely on the testimony of Almakkarí, Ibn Alkútiyyeh, and other historians, at the time when Músa was deprived of the command, he was preparing for a second expedition into Gaul, having conceived the gigantic project of subduing Italy, Germany, and the rest of Europe, that he might thus open a communication by land between the eastern and western empires founded by the Arabs. But this assertion is not only improbable in itself, but unsupported by the testimony of Christian writers; and we are inclined to think, with M. Reinaud, that if the Arab general ever penetrated into Gaul, his hostilities must have been limited to some slight incursions, in which no place of any consequence was reduced. It was otherwise with Alhaur, son of Abdurrahmán, who, in 98 of the Híjra, (A.D. 715,) took the reins of government in the Khalif's name. He penetrated into Gaul at the head of a considerable army, ravaged Languedoc, reached Nismes, which he took and plundered, and returned to Spain loaded with rich booty, and thousands of captives, taken in the course of his expedition. Under his successor in command—Alsamah Ibn Málik—whom the same thirst for conquest, and zeal for the propagation of Islamism, animated, the Arabs again

crossed the Pyrenees, aspiring to nothing less than the entire subjection of the continent. Alsamah passed those mountain barriers at the head of 40,000 men, took Carcassonne, reduced Narbonne, ravaged the intermediate country, and appeared in sight of Toulouse, the capital of Aquitaine, where his progress was checked by Eudes.

Toulouse (says M. Reinaud) was, at that time, the capital of the duchy of Aquitaine. Seeing it besieged by the Arabs, the Duke Eudes, who was then absent from his estates, assembled all his forces, and hastened to its relief. In the meanwhile, the Saracens had begun the siege of that city, which they invested on all sides, battering its walls with catapults, and other war-engines, brought for the purpose. The garrison, reduced to the last extremity, was on the point of surrendering, when, at this critical moment, Eudes appeared in sight of the Arab tents, leading an army so innumerable, says Almakkarî, that the clouds of dust raised under their feet bedimmed the light of the sun. Alsamah prepared for battle, and encouraged his men by those memorable words in the Koran—"If God be with us, who shall be against us?" The armies advanced against each other with the impetuosity of the torrent when it rushes into the plain, and their shock was so terrible, that it can only be compared to two mighty mountains dashed against each other. The struggle was terrible, and for a long time the victory remained uncertain. Alsamah was everywhere animating his men by his words and his deeds—always in the thickest of the strife, his place might be distinguished by the long tracks of blood which he left everywhere on his passage; but while thus, like an infuriated lion, making havoc in the enemy's ranks, he was pierced by a spear, and fell from his horse. The Arabs, seeing their general fall, were seized with terror, and left the field of battle strewn with their dead, among which might be seen the bodies of many an illustrious Saracen, who had distinguished himself in former invasions. This battle took place in the month of May, 721.

A last, but still more unsuccessful attempt to plant the banner of Islamism in France, and to carry the words of the Prophet to the very shores of the Baltic, was made in the year 114 of the Hijra (A.D. 732), by the Spanish Arabs. Abdurrahmán Ibn Abdullah, then the governor of Spain, made his entry into Gallia Narbonnensis, at the head of the largest army which had trod that country since the days of Attila. If we are to believe the accounts of the Christian writers, the devastation and ravages committed on its passage equalled, if they did not exceed, the destructive havoc of the northern barbarian. The once flourishing towns lying between the Garonne and the Loire, were converted into a heap of ruins—the inhabitants were either put to death, or made captives. In vain did Eudes strive to stop the progress of the Mussulmans: this time he was unsuccessful; he was defeated, and his army dispersed. After a desperate resistance, the city of Tours opened its gates; and the whole of France might then have been brought under the Mohammedan yoke, had not Charles, who had hitherto looked with indifference on the tide of destruction, pouring over his rival's dominions, roused himself to defend his own kingdom, which, in its turn, the Arabs now invaded. The armies met on the extended plain between the city of Tours and that of Poitiers: the contest was long and bloody; both generals exhibited the greatest courage and ability; and both Franks and Arabs fought with desperation. The latter had, at first, some advantage; but in the end, the impenetrable ranks, robust frames, and iron hands of the German infantry, clad in steel, upon which the light cavalry of the Arabs could make no impression, turned the fortune of the day, and the Moslems left the field of battle, strewn with the bodies of thousands of their countrymen, among whom was that of their general himself. By this memorable battle, Christendom was saved, and the Mussulmans never after-

wards appeared in the heart of France in such large numbers. The fortresses which they held were speedily subdued—Narbonne itself surrendered, after a siege of six years—and in 759 the Spanish Moslems did not possess one foot of ground on this side of the Pyrenees.

At this point closes one of the three periods into which M. Reinaud has divided his work, in order to give more perspicuity to his narrative. The second, embracing upwards of a century, contains the history of the Saracen invasions of France during the reign of the Sultans of Cordova, until their establishment in Provence. This period will be found to possess a character entirely different from the first. The possession of countries so superior to the land of their birth, in climate and fertility, had enervated the courage of the conquerors of Spain, just as the pastoral virtues and martial spirit of the roving Bedouens had gradually vanished under the beautiful sky of Syria and Mesopotamia. Moreover, the few sparks of the spirit of liberty which had been permitted to smoulder in the mountain recesses of Asturias, were now kindled into a blaze, which threatened to spread over the richest provinces held by the unbelievers. The strength of the Arabs, too, had been greatly diminished by their deadly feuds and interminable civil wars; and we cannot wonder if, under the Khalifs of Cordova, their zeal for the propagation of Islamism was considerably abated, and their ardour for conquest slackened, although their empire was then at its highest splendour of civilization and culture. However, in 176 of the Hijra (A.D. 792), the city of Narbonne was again taken, destroyed, and partly burnt by an army, under the command of Abdullah Ibn Abdalmalik, one of Hisham's generals; and the Arabs, although unable to reduce any of the fortified places of Septimania, were everywhere victorious, and returned across the Pyrenees, laden with immense plunder. Another successful expedition, undertaken under the reign of his successor, again brought havoc and desolation into the rich plains of Languedoc and Provence. But the conquest of Catalonia by the Franks, and the consolidation of the kingdoms of Navarre and Biscay along the Pyrenees, closed the communication by land with the continent, and the progress of the Arabs was successfully checked during the greatest part of the ninth century, and France was henceforth delivered from overland invasions.

Their efforts, however, were soon recommenced by sea, and directed against the coast of Provence. There the Mussulmans succeeded in forming an establishment, from which, scouring the neighbouring country, they were, in the course of time, enabled to make predatory incursions into Savoy, Piedmont, and Switzerland. In the first years of Islamism, the Arabs had shown themselves exceedingly averse to encounter the perils of the sea. It is said of Omar, their second Khalif, that after the conquest of Egypt by his lieutenant Amrú Ibn Al-ás, he wrote to him, asking for a description of the sea; Amrú answered—"The sea is a large pool, which some inconsiderate people traverse, looking like worms on logs of wood." Upon which Omar prohibited under severe penalties any Moslem to embark on that element, the prohibition lasting until the time of Muawiyah, who first fitted out an expedition against the island of Cyprus. A second one was directed in 967 against Sicily, and from that moment the maritime provinces of the Grecian empire suffered as much from attacks by sea as by land. At first the conquerors of Spain paid very little attention to their fleet, but the geographical situation of that kingdom, and the necessity of defending their extensive range of coast from the attacks of the Northmen, impressed Abdurrahmán III. with

the necessity of creating a navy which, under his reign, amounted to 300 sail. According to Ibn Hayyán, an Arabian writer of the eleventh century, the Moslem fleets were, at first, almost entirely manned by renegades and Christians, especially Italians or Sicilians, with the exception of the fighting crew, which was always composed of Mussulmans; but when the Arabs became used to the sea and its dangers, they eagerly sought to take part in expeditions which were to them a source of unbounded wealth; the Mediterranean was covered with their vessels, and the coasts of France and Italy were alternately visited by pirates sailing from the ports of Spain and Africa. These, even after their expulsion from Spain, continued to be for a long time the scourge of Christendom.

M. Reinaud's narrative is not only generally accurate, but interspersed occasionally with excellent historical criticism. It is evident that he has had to contend, in more than one place, with extraordinary difficulties, owing to the want of authentic documents respecting the period of his history, and the still more arduous task of reconciling the accounts of Christian and Mohammedan writers. For the same reasons, he has, in our opinion, made too free a use of certain monastic chronicles, which are neither contemporary, nor entitled to great credit. He has likewise borrowed from sources still less pure, such as the *Roman de Garin, Rou, la Rose*, and others of the same kind, and whenever historical materials fell short, he has had recourse to those fictitious works, filling up the interval with miraculous legends of saints, and records of holy and pious abbots. Among the latter we have one on which we desire to offer a few words of comment; it relates to a saint, named Jeoffroi, who, on the approach of the Saracens to his monastery, assembled his brethren, and bade them fly, with their relics and treasures, to the woods, while he himself, disregarding their tears and entreaties, resolved to await patiently the approach of the enemy. The unbelievers on their arrival finding the brethren gone with all their valuables, were, of course, highly incensed and proceeded to vent their rage on the good abbot.

That day was a holiday on which the barbarians were accustomed to offer sacrifices to God. The chronicler, from whom we borrow this narrative, does not say what these sacrifices consisted of; it appears, however, that they were simple libations, whence we might infer that the Saracens who invaded Velay were not Mussulmans, but probably Barbarians, most of whom were still plunged in idolatry. Be this as it may, the Barbarians having retired apart in order to perform their religious ceremonies, the saint thought it a good opportunity to address them and convince them of their errors. He therefore approached, and made it clear that, instead of thus worshipping the devil they ought to reserve their homages for the Creator of all things, for him who is the Lord of the elements, and for whom everything exists. But, instead of making an impression on the Barbarians, the exhortations of the holy man only increased their rage: they abused him; and one of them, a sacrilegious priest, seizing a large stone, hurled it at the head of the saint, who fell senseless to the ground. The unbelievers after this were going to complete their work of destruction, by setting fire to the monastery, when the arrival of the Christian forces, or rather—if we are to believe the author whose narrative we transcribe—a horrible tempest, accompanied by thunder and lightning, by which God made manifest his just indignation, obliged the Barbarians to fly.

In the foregoing passage, there are two points which cannot pass without comment: the one is the assumption, that the Saracens, who invaded Velay in 752, were idolaters; and the other the free use of the epithet Barbarians, as applied by M. Reinaud to the conquerors of Spain. As regards the first, we doubt if there exist sufficient reasons to authorize the supposition, that the invaders were idolaters. When the Arabs pen-

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trated into Africa, the inhabitants of that wide continent were, it is true, divided into castes or nations, speaking various languages, living under separate laws, and professing different religions; the greater part of the native inhabitants were either fire worshippers, or professed Judaism; while among the Imperialists, who still occupied the principal cities and fortresses along the coast of the Mediterranean, some were Arians, a few however, still adhering to the worship of idols. The desperate resistance which the Africans offered to the arms of the Arabs, their poverty, their love of independence, their roving habits, made the conquest as difficult as it was unprofitable, so that, with a policy highly deserving of praise, the conquerors tried to win the affections of the natives, and succeeded in converting dangerous enemies into powerful and effective auxiliaries. A similarity of habits and pursuits, the same restlessness of spirit, the same eagerness for plunder, and the same love of liberty, early tended to blend the Arabs and the Africans into one nation; moreover, the conquerors, by turning to their advantage certain obscure traditions existing among the natives, easily persuaded them that they were descended from a common ancestry, and from that moment whole tribes of Africans came daily to enlist under the standard of the Prophet. So great, indeed, was the activity shown by the Mussulman governors, in propagating the Mohammedan religion, that in 121 of the Hijra (A.D. 758), the Khalif Abû-l-Abbâs, was informed by Abdurrahman, then his lieutenant in Africa, that the tribute imposed on the infidels had totally ceased, through their unanimous adoption of the faith of Islam. If then we should admit that some of the tribes still unsubdued in the endless plains of Africa, may have adhered tenaciously, and for a long time, to idolatry, there is no ground whatever to suppose, that the auxiliary bands employed by the Arabs in the conquest of the southern part of France, belonged to that class; still less that strict Mussulmans would have countenanced practices so contrary to their religion. The old chronicler consulted by M. Reinaud has probably been led into error by a well-known ceremony of Mohammedan worship, which consists in sacrificing sheep or lambs, and distributing their flesh to the poor on particular festival days; viz. on the first day of the month of Shawâl, and on the tenth of Dhi-l-hijâh.

The reader will no doubt be as much surprised as we were, to find M. Reinaud bestowing so liberally the epithet of *Barbarians* on a people now generally acknowledged to have been, not only the admirers and cultivators of science, but the channel through which was transmitted to us the learning of the Greeks. It is true, that in the eyes of the monastic writers of the middle ages, so little difference existed between the savage bands of Hungarians, Saxons, and other northmen, who after the death of Charlemagne, poured on all sides over his shattered empire, and the Saracen invaders who crossed the Pyrenees, that even at the revival of letters it was long the fashion among learned men, to regard the Arabs as corrupters of the sciences, and the ruthless enemies to polite literature. But the injustice of these accusations has been fully acknowledged, and further research will place in a still more advantageous light the important services for which literature and science are indebted to the Arabs. According to the unanimous testimony of historians, both Christian and Mohammedan, almost every science was cultivated in Spain during the ninth century, at a time when the rest of Europe was enveloped in comparative darkness. It was to Cordova, Toledo, and other cities occupied by the Mussulmans, that those among the Christians repaired who possessed a taste

for learning, and who subsequently disseminated over Europe the sciences learnt in the schools of the Arabs. The monk Gerbert, better known as Silvester II., who flourished in the eleventh century, studied mathematics and astronomy at Cordova; on his return to his native country, he founded two schools, one at Bobbio (in Italy), and the other at Rheims (in France); he introduced besides, the use of the Indian ciphers, by which the operations of arithmetic were greatly facilitated; and so universal were his talents, so great was his learning, that, when raised to the papal see, it was deemed superhuman, and ascribed to diabolical agency! Gherardo di Cremona also studied philosophy, medicine, and astronomy, in Toledo, where he translated from the Arabic the works of Rasis and Avicenna, besides the *Almagest* of Ptolemy. It was among the Arabs that Alphonso the Tenth acquired his knowledge of astronomy, and composed the astronomical tables which bear his name. Of our countrymen, Adelard, a Benedictine monk of Bath, and Daniel Morley, a native of Norfolk, travelled to Spain during the middle ages, and frequented the schools of the Arabs. The former translated Euclid's *Elements*, and other Greek writings, from the Arabic into the Latin language; the latter became famous by his mathematical acquirements. Roger Bacon himself studied chemistry, physics, astronomy, medicine, and optics, in Arabic manuscripts; and Bailly affirms, that Nureddin-Petrucchi opened the way for Kepler's discovery of the elliptical orbits of the planets. The first school of medicine formed after the revival of letters, that of Salerno, had been an Arabian school during the occupation of the kingdom of Naples by the Mussulmans; and, until the sixteenth century, the only works put into the hands of medical students were, the semi-barbarous translations made into Latin, from Avicenna (Ibn Sina), Aben-pae (Ibn Bâjeh), and other eminent Arabian physicians. In short, without exaggerating the labours of the Arabs, it may be stated, that we are indebted to them for the revival of all the exact and natural sciences; and that, without their indefatigable application to the studies of the ancients, without their discovery of paper, and the use of the mariner's compass, which, together with gunpowder and several other improvements in the arts, are now acknowledged to have been either invented, or introduced into Europe, by the Spanish Arabs, the restoration of letters—that event which forms an era in the history of civilization—might have been considerably postponed.

But if the state of high cultivation of the Arabs is so striking, when compared to the ignorance and barbarism, which prevailed in the rest of Europe, at a time when scarcely "a priest south of the Thames," in the words of Alfred, could translate Latin into his mother tongue, what shall we say, when we examine impartially the nature of their political relations with other nations, their treatment of the vanquished, and their religious tolerance? We are told by the Christian writers themselves, that shortly after the conquest, and when the first excitement had subsided, the capitulations granted to the vanquished were as favourable as could have been expected from a people who were enemies to the Christian faith; so that the policy of the conquerors must have been liberal rather than otherwise. Such among the Christians as chose to remain in the conquered territory, were not only left in undisturbed possession of their property, but were further allowed to worship according to their faith, to be governed by their own laws, to be judged by their own magistrates,—in short, to enjoy all the rights of citizens; so that with the exception of a capitation tax, called *taadil*, levied exclusively on all those who did not profess Mohammedanism, the condition of the

Christian subject was not worse than that of the Mussulman. In their tolerance towards the vanquished, the Arabs imitated, if they did not surpass, the Romans. Christians were allowed to fill certain civil offices, and not unfrequently occupied places of trust within the palace, or of high command in the army. Mention is made by Arabian writers, of several Christian churches within the very precincts of the capital, besides many monasteries of both sexes in the interior of the neighbouring mountains; and during the Arab sway, the Christians inhabiting Cordova, Toledo, Seville, and other principal cities, continued to be under the ecclesiastical authority of their bishops. The Arabian writers make frequent mention of a famous Christian astrologer, whom they call *Ibn-Al-askaf Al-kortobi*, the son of the Bishop of Cordova; and who passes as the author of a voluminous work on that science written for the use of Abdurrahman III., King of Cordova. Another Christian bishop was intrusted with a solemn embassy to Otho, Emperor of Germany; and if further proof of the civil and religious tolerance of the Arabs be required, we shall find it in the three councils recorded by the Spanish church, and celebrated within the very walls of the Mussulman capitals, one at Seville in 782, under Abdurrahman I., another at Cordova in 852, and a third in 865, under Mohammed I., with this peculiar circumstance, that the second of these assemblies met agreeably to the injunction, and by the express wish of the khalif, in order that the bishops might, by their decisions, put a stop to the uncontrolled zeal and consequent quarrels of their Christian subjects.

It is true the Christians had occasionally to suffer from the caprices of despotism—and the Mussulman code was at times insufficient to protect them against popular fanaticism. History records periods, in which the khalifs deviated from their mild policy, and when the streets of Cordova ran with the blood of the martyrs. But in all these events the Mohammedan government was an unwilling actor; and whenever a persecution took place, it was brought on by the over-ardent zeal of the Christian, rather than by any wanton cruelty on the part of his adversaries. We are told, by Eulogio, himself a martyr, that the prelates, on more than one occasion, condemned the dangerous enthusiasm, which prompted their fellow Christians living in Cordova, and who filled important situations in the state, to insult the prejudice of a bigoted population, and thereby bring destruction on their own heads; and Abdurrahman II., in whose time the principal persecutions took place, is allowed, on the testimony of the Christian chroniclers themselves, to have used all his endeavours to stop the effusion of blood.

It is also worthy of remark, that the authors who have so eloquently described the sufferings of their brethren under the Mohammedan yoke, have kept a profound silence as to the condition of the Mussulmans living in the Christian territory. Were we to judge from such acts as are not only avowed, but commended by Mariana, and other historians, the fanaticism and persecution of the Christian monarchs offered everywhere a striking contrast to the religious tolerance of the Khalifs. Notwithstanding the solemn capitulations granted to the inhabitants of Toledo, at the taking of that city by Alphonso, in which the Mussulmans were promised the free use of their religion, a few months had scarcely elapsed before their mosques were violently seized, and converted into places of Christian worship, and such of the Mohammedans who did not embrace Christianity, were expelled from the city. In more modern times, when the standard of the Cross waved triumphantly over the lofty towers of the Alhambra, when by the taking of the last

bulwark of Moorish dominion in the Peninsula, the Moslem community was subjected to Christian laws; how soon were the most solemn treaties and capitulations violated, and the most solemn oaths disregarded—and by whom? by two of the greatest monarchs of which Spain can boast. How many thousands of victims groaned miserably in the dark dungeons of the Inquisition! how many wretches expired by fire and faggot in all corners of the Peninsula, and that, too, in the name and for the honour of Christianity, the most tolerant of religions!

We think that such considerations as these might have induced M. Reinaud not to follow so closely the narrative of the monastic writers of the middle ages. He would thus have avoided that partiality, which pervades some parts of his work, and which, however excusable in an abbot of the tenth century, trembling as much for the lands attached to his convent, as for the relics of the saints, cannot be tolerated in an historian of this age,—and in a scholar, too, who by his acquaintance with the writings of the Arabs, cannot plead ignorance as to most of the facts mentioned in the course of our review: he might, in short, in place of relating events intrinsically devoid of any great importance, have discussed the manifold improvements for which Europe at large is indebted to the conquests and settlements of the Saracens, and done something towards the solution of that great and difficult problem, "What are the obligations of modern Europe to the Arabs?"

*The Popular Songs of Ireland.* Collected and Edited, with Introductions and Notes, by T. Crofton Croker, Esq. Colburn.

Mr. Croker's intention, as stated in the preface, was to have published "a series of songs, which would have told the history of Ireland from the battle of the Boyne to the present time, in a novel, impartial, and, according to my view, interesting and instructive form. From the genuine contemporary evidences of popular feeling, I am satisfied that many curious and some important deductions might have been derived. For what has been said of French songs, applies perfectly to those of Ireland. 'The Frenchman' (and so does the Irishman) 'sings his conquests, his prosperity, his defeats, even his miseries and misfortunes. Conquering or conquered, in plenty or want, happy or unhappy, sorrowful or gay, he always sings; and one would say that the song is his natural expression. In fine, in all situations in which we would speak of the French' (or the Irish) 'we might always ask, as the late King of Sardinia did, 'Well! how goes the little song?'"

It was found that, with the utmost compression, such a collection would have extended to three or four volumes, and at this the publisher became alarmed, and the proposed series was abandoned. We are sorry for it—such a work would have been most welcome: but that it would repay the publisher we much doubt, and have certainly no right to complain because he was unwilling to hazard the speculation. But the present volume is wanting in character; it has no distinct intelligible feature; it professedly contains a selection from the popular songs, but includes such as the compiler assumes ought to be popular. However, we must be content with it.

The first song is dedicated, as it ought to be, to Ireland's Patron Saint. The mention (Mr. Croker observes) of potatoes, steam-boats, and other matters generally supposed to be modern introductions, may startle the reader in a history of St. Patrick, but we were told of old that "there is nothing new under the sun." St. Patrick makes his first appearance in "sweet Bantary Bay," riding "cross-legged astride on the back of a whale," much to the astonishment

of the good people, one of whom however resolves to—

Speak to the creature  
Just out of good nature,  
and then addresses him—  
"Your wig, white as flax,  
Makes me bold for to ax  
It's who are you, what are you, and from whence you came?"  
Then the other replied,  
"I came in the last tide;  
I'm a saint come to serve you, and Patrick's my name."

St. Patrick explains the object of his mission, which is to drive the devil out of Ireland, and he bids them—

Go, lie down in clover,  
Till the skirmish is over.  
This is soon accomplished—  
Then he spoke to the nation—  
"My sweet congregation,  
You've spirits remaining that's stronger than he;  
Sure ye knows what I mean—  
They bewilder your brains—  
They're as clear as the streamlet that flows through the green.

But stronger than Sampson,  
Who pulled post and lamps on  
His enemies' head,  
Till he kilt them stone dead;  
And the name of the spirit I mean is poteen,  
I exhort ye, don't stick, sirs,  
To those Devil's elixirs,  
Of a Patrick's day in the morning!"

The Saint fell asleep  
And the Firbolgs all creep  
For some cruiskens of water unholy, but tastely.  
With this essence of sins  
Soon they filled up their skins:  
When the Saint he awoke they were beastly.  
As fuddled they lay,  
Says the Saint "there's a way  
To wean them: I'll mixish stuff put in each bottle;  
And when they awake,  
If a swig they should take,  
Oh, dear! 'twill disgust them.  
I think I may trust them,  
They'll vow that no more shall pass down through their  
throatle.  
Something sweet I'll here pour,  
And here something sour,  
On Patrick's day in the morning!"

He went off—they awoke,  
Each "hot copper" did smoke  
Like the flue of a steamer—each pounced on his drink;  
Their showing grimaces,  
Their making of faces,  
Beat Buck all to nothing: but, what do you think?  
With features a-wry,  
In a hoghead hard by,  
Each emptied his bottle, though dying of thirst;  
Till one, dry as a sponge,  
At the tub made a plunge,  
Where the sour, and the sweet,  
And the whiskey did meet,  
And he swigged off this physic, till ready to burst.  
By the side of this mixture  
Each man grew a fixture,  
On St. Patrick's day in the morning!

When St. Patrick came back,  
"Och!" says he, "ye vile pack  
Of the spawn of the Druids—ye villainous bunch!"  
But a noise, as from Babel  
Here made him unable  
To hear his own voice, though he said, "Is the Puceen"—  
now, he'd have added,  
But the Firbolgs were maddened,  
Their bowls cut short question, remark or reply.  
"Ay, Puceen," they roared out,  
With an earth-shaking shout,  
"Is the name of this thing  
That is drink for a king,  
Or the mouth of a Druid, if ever he's dry:  
It would coax pipe-shank'd Death  
For to let one take breath  
On St. Patrick's day in the morning!"

The "sweet congregation" soon forgot the good advice of the Saint, for the virtues of whiskey and whisky-punch are the burden of half the songs in the collection. "It is difficult (says Mr. Croker) to form a correct estimate of the quantity of whiskey-punch which may be comfortably discussed at a sitting. In the case of a gentleman whose life had been insured for a large sum of money, the payment at his death was resisted by the Insurance Company, upon the plea that he had caused his death by excessive drinking. The matter came to a legal trial, and among other witnesses examined was one who swore that, for the last eighteen years of his life, he had been in the habit of taking every night four and twenty tumblers of whiskey-punch. 'Recollect yourself, sir,' said the examining counsel. 'Four and twenty? you swear to that:—did you ever drink five and twenty?' 'I am on my oath,' replied the witness; 'and I will swear no further, for I never keep 'count beyond the two dozen, though there's

no saying how many beyond it I might drink to make myself comfortable: but that's my stint."

It is not only difficult to decide on the quantity to be taken at a sitting, but that which a glass should hold. "On one occasion a hospitable lady, who had rewarded a labourer for his exertions with some admirable whisky, administered in a claret glass, was both shocked and astonished at the impiety and ingratitude of his exclamation,—'May the devil blow the man that blew this glass!'" "What is that you say?" inquired the lady. "What do I hear?" "I'm much obliged to you, honourable madam, and 'tis no harm I mean; only bad luck to the blackguard glass-blower, whoever he was, since, with the least bit of breath in life more, he could have made the glass twice as big."

But whatever perplexities there may be as to quantities, there can be none as to occasions, for whisky and fighting seem equally suited to all; and thus concludes the song of 'The Merry Man':—

When stopped in my toddy  
By death seizing my body,  
No crocodile tears shall be shed at my wake;  
While there I am lying  
No counterfeit crying,  
No moans, I desire, shall be made for my sake.  
I've no taste for squalling,  
Or old women's bawling,  
Who string nonsense together and call it a keen;  
Who only are selling  
Their yelping and yelling  
For some one, perhaps, that they never have seen.  
But of whisky a cruiskin  
To fill up each loose skin,  
Let all have to toast to my journey up hill;  
And three jolly pipers  
To tune up for the swipers,  
While each boy honestly swallows his fill.  
Then a blackthorn cudgel  
For each, should they grudge ill,  
To anoint one another, and none to control.  
Nor let them be down-hearted  
For him that's departed,  
But end their disputes in a full flowing bowl.

The interlude of the blackthorn cudgel is curious and characteristic; and seems to have been well understood by the Cromwellians, if the following be a genuine extract from the will of one of them:—

"My body shall be put upon the oak-table in my coffin in the brown room, and fifty Irishmen shall be invited to my wake, and every one shall have two quarts of the best aqua vite, and each a skein, dirk, or knife, laid before him; and, when their liquor is out, nail up my coffin, and commit me to earth, from whence I came. This is my will. Witness my hand, this 3d of March, 1674.—JOHN LANGLEY.  
"Some of Langley's friends asked him why he would be at such charge to treat the Irish at his funeral, a people whom he never loved? 'Why for that reason,' replied Langley; 'for they will get so drunk at my wake that they will kill one another, and so we shall get rid of some of the breed; and if every one would follow my example in their wills, in time we should get rid of them all!'"

Mr. Lockhart, in his *Life of Scott*, makes mention of an interview between the latter and a brother poet, by name O'Kelly, at Limerick, who, on the strength of Sir Walter's five shillings, produced on the occasion this modest parody of Dryden's epigram:—

Three poets, of three different nations born,  
The United Kingdom in this age adorn;  
Byron, of England; Scott, of Scotia's blood;  
And Erin's pride, O'Kelly, great and good.

O'Kelly, it appears, lost his watch at Doneraile, and never after ceased to rail at the city. He denounced it in the bardic fashion, and as the Doneraile Litany became popular, we shall give a specimen:—

Alas! how dismal is my tale!—  
I lost my watch in Doneraile;  
My Dublin watch, my chain and seal,  
Pillfered at once in Doneraile.  
May fire and brimstone never fall  
To fall in showers on Doneraile;  
May all the leading fiends assail  
The thieving town of Doneraile.  
May beef or mutton, lamb or veal,  
Be never found in Doneraile;  
But garlic soup, and scurvy kill,  
Be still the food for Doneraile.

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And forward as the creeping snail,  
Th' industry be of Doneraile;  
May heaven a chosen curse entail  
On rigid, rotten Doneraile.

\* \* \* \* \*  
May every Post, Gazette, and Mail,  
Sad tidings bring of Doneraile;  
May loudest thunders ring a peal,  
To blind and deafen Doneraile.

May vengeance fall at head and tail,  
From north to south, at Doneraile;  
May profit light, and tardy sale,  
Still damp the trade of Doneraile.

\* \* \* \* \*  
May Oscar, with his fiery flail,  
To atoms thrash all Doneraile;  
May every mischief, fresh and stale,  
Abide, henceforth, in Doneraile.

May all, from Belfast to Kinsale,  
Scot, curse, and damn you, Doneraile;  
May neither flour nor oatmeal  
Be found or known in Doneraile.

May want and wo each joy curtail  
That e'er was known in Doneraile;  
May no one coffin want a nail  
That wraps a rogue in Doneraile.

May mischief, big as Norway whale,  
O'erwhelm the knaves of Doneraile;  
May curses, wholesale and retail,  
Pour with full force on Doneraile.  
May every transport want to sail  
A convict bring from Doneraile;  
May every churn and milking pail  
Fall dry to staves in Doneraile.

\* \* \* \* \*  
Oh! may my couplets never fail  
To find a curse for Doneraile;  
And may grim Pluto's inner gnat  
For ever groan with Doneraile.

The local songs are to us the more interesting part of the collection, and some of them have great merit. 'Gougane Barra,' for example: Gougane Barra is a small lake about two miles in circumference, formed by numerous streams descending from the mountains which divide the counties of Cork and Kerry. The song was written by Mr. Callanan. During a residence in Bantry, says his biographer, he made many excursions to visit the surrounding scenery, and 'Gougane Barra' was written in the Hermitage during a thunder storm:—

There is a green island in lone Gougane Barra,  
Whence Ailu of songs rushes forth like an arrow;  
In deep valleys'd Desmond a thousand wild fountains  
Come down to that lake, from their home in the mountains.  
There grows the wild ash; and a time-stricken willow  
Looks chidingly down on the mirth of the willow,  
As, like some gay child that sad monitor scolding,  
It lightly laughs back to the laugh of the morning.

And its zone of dark hills—oh! to see them all brightening,  
When the tempest flings out his red banner of lightning,  
And the waters come down, 'mid the thunder's deep rattle,  
Like clans from their hills at the voice of the battle;  
And brightly the fire-crested billows are gleaming,  
And wildly from Malloe the eagles are screaming:  
Oh, where is the dwelling, in valley or highland,  
So meet for a bard as that lone little island?

How oft when the summer sun rested on Clara,  
And lit the blue headland of sullen Ivara,  
Have I sought thee, sweet spot, from my home by the ocean,  
And trod all thy wilds with a minstrel's devotion,  
And thought on the bards who, oft gathering together,  
In the cleft of thy rocks, and the depth of thy heather,  
Dwelt far from the Saxon's dark bondage and slaughter,  
As they raised their last song by the rush of thy water.

High sons of the lyre! oh, how proud was the feeling  
To dream while alone through that solitude stealing;  
Though loftier minstrels green Erin can number,  
I alone waked the strain of her harp from her slumber,  
And gleaned the gray legend that long had been sleeping,  
Where oblivion's dull mist o'er its beauty was creeping,  
From the love which I felt for my country's sad story,  
When to love her was shame, to revile her was glory!

Last bard of the free! were it mine to inherit  
The fire of thy harp and the wing of thy spirit,  
With the wrongs which like thee to my own land have  
bound me.

Did your mantle of song throw its radiance around me;  
Yet, yet on those bold cliffs might Liberty rally,  
And abroad send her cry o'er the liberty of each valley,  
But, rouse thee, vain dreamer! no fond fancy cherish,  
Thy vision of Freedom in bloodshed must perish.

I soon shall be gone—though my name may be spoken  
When Erin awakes, and her fetters are broken—  
Some minstrel will come in the summer eve's gleaming,  
When Freedom's young light on his spirit is beaming,  
To bend o'er my grave with a tear of emotion,  
Where calm Ayrone seeks the kisses of ocean,  
And a wild wreath to plant from the banks of that river  
O'er the heart and the harp that are silent for ever.

Passage, near Cork, seems to have been especially honoured by the poets. One song was introduced with success, in the farce of 'The

Irish Tutor.' Another is by Father Prout. The following is less known:—

Oh, Passage town is of great renown,  
For we go down in our buggies there  
On a Sunday morning, all danger scorning,  
To get a corning at sweet Passage fair.  
Oh, 'tis there you'd see the steam-boats sporting  
Upon Lough Mahon, all so fair to view;  
Bold Captain O'Brien, with his colours flying,  
And he a-vieling with the Waterloo.

There's a patent slipping, and dock for shipping,  
And whale-boats skipping upon the tide;  
There ships galore is, and Cove before us,  
With "Carrigalee on the other side."  
'Tis there the bulk that's well stored with convicts,  
Who were never upon decks till they went to sea;  
They'll ne'er touch dry land, nor rocky island,  
Until they spy land at sweet Botany Bay.

Here's success to this foreign station,  
Where American ships without horses ride,  
And Portuguese from every nation  
Comes in rotation upon the tide.  
But not forgetting Haulbowline Island,  
That was constructed by Mrs. Deane:  
Herself the lady that has stowed the water  
To supply the vessels upon the main.\*

And these bold sons of Neptune, I mean the boatmen,  
Will ferry you over from Cove to Spike;  
And outside the harbour are fishers sporting,  
Watching a nibble from a sprat or pike.  
While their wives and daughters, from no danger shrinking,  
All night and morning they rove about.  
The mud and sand-banks, for the periwinkle,  
The shrimp and cockle when the tide is out.

The song with which we shall conclude, is generally, and Mr. Croker thinks correctly, attributed to Thomas Moore:—

Oh! the boys of Kilkenny are stout roving blades,  
And if ever they meet with the nice little maids,  
They kiss them and coax them, they spend their money free.  
Oh! of all towns in Ireland, Kilkenny for me.  
Oh! of all towns in Ireland, Kilkenny for me!

Through the town of Kilkenny there runs a clear stream,  
In the town of Kilkenny there lives a pretty dame,  
Her cheeks are like roses, her lips much the same,  
Like a dish of ripe strawberries smothered in cream.  
Like a dish of ripe strawberries smothered in cream.

Her eyes are as black as Kilkenny's famed coal,  
And 'tis they through my bosom that have burned a big hole;  
Her mind, like its waters, is as deep, clear, and pure,  
But her heart is more hard than its marble, I'm sure.  
But her heart is more hard than its marble, I'm sure.

Oh! Kilkenny's a famous town, that shines where it stands,  
And the more I think on it, the more my heart warms;  
For if I was in Kilkenny, I'd think myself at home,  
For it's there I'd get sweethearts, but here I get none.  
For it's there I'd get sweethearts, but here I get none.

Among the reasons, independent of internal evidence, given, for ascribing this song to Mr. Moore, it is said, that Moore was a prominent member of the private theatricals at Kilkenny, about the years 1802, 3, and 4, where he played Spado, Mungo, and Peeping Tom with great success. There, indeed, "he met, wooed, and won his present good lady."

*Trials of the Heart.* By Mrs. Bray. 3 vols. Longman & Co.

"Trials of Patience" might these tales be called, without denying to them those peculiar merits which a certain dowager prosiness of style, observable in all Mrs. Bray's recent works, cannot wholly obscure. Though Mrs. Bray avoids the melo-dramatic exaggerations of the common herd of novel writers, she exaggerates notwithstanding: the quantity of preface, for example, to every small trait or anecdote—the quantity of words in every given sentence—the importance of trifles. Tours in Brittany, made many years since,—walks in the garden with Mr. Bray, in which the plots of her tales were discussed and arranged, are related in the ample "cedar-parlour" style of Richardson—not a syllable of remembrance or consultation is spared to us—and we are so long kept back from 'Prediction' and the 'Orphans of La Vendee,' and 'Vicissitudes,' and the 'Adopted,' by such "pribbles and prables," that when we enter on their perusal it is with coldness and indifference."

\* The late Mrs. Deane, the mother of Sir Thomas Deane, was a woman of extraordinary energy of character. She took an active part in the superintendence of the naval works which were constructed upon Haulbowline Island, in Cork harbour, between the years 1816 and 1822.

Most of the tales turn upon those homely sorrows, by which persons of the middle and humbler classes take their ordained share of human suffering. The personages of the 'Adopted,' the best and longest story, are of a higher rank: the scene is in France: the time is the days of the revolution, and the frightful atrocities perpetrated in Nantes close the story, and form one of the most vivid portions of the book, though described at a length which places extract beyond our reach. The story called 'Vicissitudes,' seems to be in part interwoven with genuine journals, on which presumption we will venture to draw upon it for a short "passage of life" in Courland, as it was many years ago. The heroine and her husband having arrived at Libo, they were waited on by the *Upper Basooker*, a custom-house officer: the lady of the tale is described as being the first English woman who had ever been seen in Libo, and as such an object of great curiosity. She is invited to the house of the functionary. After being made to sing,—

"The two beautiful daughters of the Upper Basooker then came to me, and drew me out of the room. They led me into a small apartment which, by its accompaniments, I could see belonged to themselves. There these young ladies made me sit down on a kind of couch; and one placed herself on either side of me. The scene that followed was amusing. They looked at me with eyes sparkling with kindness, pleasure, and curiosity. They talked to me, I thought, very fast, in gentle accents, like those of endearment; hugged and kissed me to make me understand that they liked me; pulled about my hair, and twisted some of my locks round their fingers; and finally, making me comprehend it would please them, fairly undressed me between them to my petticoat and stays. My gown, &c. was examined with the nicest curiosity; and then they pulled off their own things, and dressed themselves in mine, each in her turn, looking at each other, before a large glass, with an air of childish wonder and delight that was to me most surprising. At length I got on my clothes again, and, after another hugging and kissing, returned to the party. From this time forth we were invited out almost every day to dine with the merchants and principal persons of the place. Shortly after this adventure we were invited to be present at one of the grandest festivals of the Courlanders, of which I shall give an account. I have forgotten, in the lapse of years, the name and rank of the party who gave this entertainment; but I know I was told that it was the second person of the state, being only inferior to the duke himself. The wife of this grandee had just been confined, and the christening of the child was to take place with great pomp, three days after the birth, at a house that was situated some miles distant from Libo. We were to go with Mr. Douglas; and a heavy and unwieldy vehicle, like a German carriage, was to convey us to the place. We started as early as five o'clock in the morning, and, after passing through a wooded country, arrived about eleven at the end of our journey. We drew up before a very large handsome house that looked old, and as if it belonged to a person of condition. On our arrival, a gentleman came forward and handed us out. He led the way through an extensive hall to an apartment of considerable size. It was richly hung with draperies, contained many pictures in gilt frames, with large mirrors suspended at intervals about the walls. We were amongst the last comers. When we entered there were at least two hundred persons assembled, all in state dresses of the richest manufacture. Everybody was standing. The assembly struck me as being very splendid, and composed of the first class of the society of the country. At the lower end of the room a band of music was stationed. At the upper we saw nothing but two large folding doors, closely shut. A gentleman, who was the grandee of the house, came forward, and was introduced to us: he spoke as if bidding us welcome, but I could not understand him. He then placed us very near the folding doors, in a manner which seemed to say that in so doing he was paying us a particular attention, and such was the fact.

"The music now commenced playing. Several of

the clergy shortly after entered the room: these stationed themselves near the folding doors. In another minute they were thrown open, when a very singular sight presented itself to the assembly. A magnificent bed, with hangings of the most costly materials, was seen stationed within a sort of alcove, where, propped up by pillows, richly dressed, jewelled, and sitting on the bed, appeared a very handsome woman, about thirty years old. She was the mother of the child who was to be christened, only three days after its birth. Several ladies were seen attending upon her, or waiting round the bed: these were fine women, attired in dresses of state, and forming a beautiful and magnificent group. No sooner had the doors opened than the clergy commenced chanting the service. The little hero of the day next made his appearance; he was brought forward by the nurse, who was also dressed and robed. She bore him on her arms, lying on his back, and almost buried in his swaddling-clothes of state. He was so rolled, and bound, and muffled, that nothing of a human being could be discerned excepting the face, peeping from under a large white satin cap. The outer garment or robe that covered the child was made of different colours: it put me in mind of the Dutch pictures of Joseph's coat of many colours; for it was composed of many separate pieces of satin, embroidered with the finest work, and put together with much taste and fancy. The chanting and the sacred ceremonies lasted about three quarters of an hour, when, the new-made Christian being withdrawn from public view by the retreat of the nurse, the company proceeded to pay their respects to the mother. The ladies complimented and kissed her, and every gentleman knelt down and kissed her hand. The whole of the company having thus offered their congratulations, the doors closed, and no more of the mother or the child was on that day to be seen. The assembly next partook of refreshments, and afterwards amused themselves with strolling into the large and costly gardens which were adjoining the house. A bell sounded for dinner, and all hastened to partake of the most splendid entertainment that I ever saw in a foreign land. Ornamental pieces of plate and china were intermixed with an endless variety of dishes, strangely cooked; some of them, indeed, were to me quite incomprehensible, for I could not even guess of what the greater number were composed. We were four hours at dinner. I was overpowered with kind attentions; for I found that I was here, as I had been at Libo, an object of great curiosity on account of my English birth. Again and again was I called upon to contribute my part to the amusements of the evening by singing my native and some Scotch airs, with which the company seemed very much delighted. We had coffee, and then commenced dancing."

On the whole, those (and there are such,) who are not wearied by a slow pace, and a superabundance of speech, may safely try these "Trials."

*Narrative of an Expedition into Southern Africa, during the years 1836 and 1837, &c. By Capt. W. C. Harris, H.E.I. Company's Engineers. Bombay. London, Richardson.*

At the early age of six years, Capt. Harris gave indication of no ordinary sporting genius, by discharging a great blunderbuss at a flock of sparrows in a neighbour's inclosure. But the first efforts of undisciplined genius rarely experience an encouraging reception from the world. The owner of the inclosure so unceremoniously beaten up, espousing the cause of the injured sparrows, laid an information in the proper quarter, and the juvenile, unlicensed sportsman felt the rigour of the law. This misfortune, however, could give but a momentary check to talents such as his. Strong instinct taught him, when he missed fire, to recover arms and try again. His passion for the chase, strong as powder, forced its way through all obstacles, and at length his parents, becoming fully aware of his proficiency in practical gunnery, resolved to make him a military engineer. Having thus superadded a little of the theory of projectiles to the

rich stock of experimental knowledge previously acquired, our author proceeded on active service to India, where the bones of sundry tigers that have fallen victims to his deadly aim, lie, we dare say, still bleaching in the jungle. But India (with humility be it spoken,) is in many parts too populous and cultivated to exhibit the perfection of a sporting country. Our author growing sensible of this, fell sick, and was ordered, by the medical board of Bombay, to spend two years in the colony of the Cape of Good Hope. This medical prescription crowned all his wishes: it had the effect of wafting him at once to the very paradise of sportsmen; to that land *monstrorum ferax*, where civilization and game laws have not yet disturbed the natural order of things; and where the beasts of the field, neither immured in preserves, nor liable to be bagged by statute, enjoy equally and unimpaired the privilege of all animals *feræ naturæ*, to be shot at.

On his passage from Bombay to the Cape, Captain Harris found among his fellow passengers a devoted sportsman, in the person of W. Richardson, Esq. of the Company's civil service, who readily entered into his plan of a hunting expedition to the interior. At Cape Town, the inspection of Dr. A. Smith's museum, and the account which that traveller gave of the abundance of game in the country beyond the colony, inflamed his ardour; and to the surprise of all, "the two poor Indian gentlemen," after spending only one month in Cape Town, embarked in a little schooner for Algoa Bay, on their way to the north-eastern frontier. In Graham's Town they were introduced to two traders, named Hume and Scoon, who had made several journeys into the interior, and gave them much valuable information. The former of these men, we may observe, has penetrated further northward from the borders of the colony than any other traveller, his route extending in long. 28° E., probably a degree beyond the tropic. The expeditions of these traders in South Africa, of whom there are about two hundred in the constant habit of roaming among the aboriginal tribes, without an armed escort, with considerable property, and to a great distance from the colonial frontier, are in strong contrast with the schemes of South African expeditions, formed in this country, which almost always take for granted the difficulty of the undertaking, and the danger to be apprehended from the natives. A Hottentot, named Andries Africander, who had five times visited Moselekatse's country in the interior, in the service of traders, was the first to enlist in the train of Captain Harris. He subsequently proved a very worthless character, as did the rest of our author's retinue, who, to the number of six, were all discharged criminals. This circumstance deserves to be pointed out, in order that the reader may perceive, that the annoyances experienced during this expedition were not all inevitably connected with its plan and object, but that they ought rather to be ascribed to want of circumspection in the preparatory arrangements, and to that redundancy of courage which courts martyrdom. The journey of our author from Graham's Town to Graaf Reinet, where he completed his equipment, was a series of disasters, arising no doubt from his ignorance of the manners and language of the country, and perhaps too, from the sinister address of his interpreter.

It was on the 1st of September, that most auspicious day to British sportsmen, that Captain Harris and his party, with two ox-waggons, and about a dozen horses, started for the interior. On the high plains beyond the Sniewberg, they found all the brooks frozen, and experienced a heavy fall of snow. But here game began to grow numerous, and Captain Harris warmed

himself in pursuing Gnoos, which animal he thus describes:—

"Of all quadrupeds, the Gnoo is probably the most awkward and grotesque, wheeling and prancing in every direction, his shaggy and bearded head arched between his slender and muscular legs, and his long white tail streaming in the wind; this every wary animal has at once a ferocious and ludicrous appearance. Suddenly stopping, showing an imposing front, and tossing his head in mock defiance, his wild red sinister eyes flash fire, and his snort, resembling the roar of a lion, is repeated with energy and effect. Then lashing his sides with his floating tail, he plunges, bounds, kicks up his heels with a fantastic flourish, and in a moment is off at speed, making the dust fly behind him as he sweeps across the plain."

A little further on, another kind of game presented itself.

"Here the face of the country was literally white with Springbucks, myriads of which covered the plains, affording us a welcome supply of food. When hunted, these elegant creatures take extraordinary bounds, rising with curved backs high into the air, as if about to take flight; and they invariably clear a road or beaten track in this manner, as if their natural disposition to regard man as an enemy, induced them to mistrust even the ground upon which he had trod."

These antelopes often make their appearance in the colony in countless multitudes, consuming all the fresh herbage with the rapidity of locusts: nor is this all; they mingle with the flocks of sheep, and when on being approached they betake themselves to flight, the latter go off with them, and are irrecoverably lost. To the scanty verdure of these well-stocked plains, succeeded a dry desert, with hardly a trace of vegetable or animal life, and in which the scorching heat of the day was succeeded by piercing cold at night. The party began to suffer from want of water, when they at last reached the banks of the Orange river; a magnificent stream, according to our author, to whom, as he emerged from desolation and sterility, its tranquil current three hundred yards in breadth, and fringed with drooping willows, seemed to realize "the fascinating imagery of a romance." Beyond the river, however, he witnessed a spectacle still more to his taste, namely, a large party of Coranas engaged in an attempt to run down an Ostrich on foot,—a prodigy of speed which these people sometimes achieve. On the 26th of September, our traveller entered New Litakoo, "a lovely spot in the waste by which it is completely environed."

Captain Harris is provokingly brief in his observations on the missionary settlement at Kuruman, or New Litakoo, and in its neighbourhood; though, had he been fully aware that the rising generation at those places, in a population of four or five thousand, are growing up in Christianity, in the habits of civilized life, with the knowledge of some useful arts, and the capability of reading and writing their own language, he would, no doubt, have felt deeply interested in the welfare of those settlements, and would have surveyed them with a zealous curiosity. His remark, that the male Bechuans have adopted a rude imitation of the European costume, while the females are still satisfied with their native garb, is hardly a correct, and certainly a very inadequate representation of the state of affairs in the Bechuana missions. But it must be candidly acknowledged, that our author in his pages gives his whole heart to game, and apparently reserves no share of sympathy for the uncultivated portion of his own species. He sees something to admire in the peculiarity of every four-footed beast, but the human animal in a state of nature is nothing in his eyes but an object of derision. All the natives whom he meets with, he calls indiscriminately "savages," and the colouring of the jaundiced eye is obvious in all his pictures of them. On his journey north-

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eastward from Kuruman, he was joined by a Bechuana "gentleman of quality," whom he thus describes: "His skin was blacker than a boot, and in texture resembled a rhinoceros hide; yet he studiously interposed a parasol, composed of ostrich plumes, betwixt the sun and his nobility, leaving his little daughters to bestride a pack bullock, and their complexions to take care of themselves." The Bechuanas of the missions nevertheless, and still more the Griquas, would have been worthily commemorated by our author, had he known the great extent of their hunting expeditions, on which, we are informed, they are sometimes absent for eighteen months, or even two years, and penetrate to an immense distance in the interior; nor are these people by any means so dull as not to be able to give an intelligible account of the country explored by them.

Beyond the country of the Batlapenes (the Bechuana tribe dwelling round Litakoo) succeeded a desert tract, which, in turn, gave way to a park-like scene, the wide lawns of luxuriant grass being shaded by the spreading camelthorn, a stately species of acacia, which forms the favourite food of the giraffe. "The gaudy yellow blossoms with which these remarkable trees were covered, yielded an aromatic and overpowering perfume; while small troops of striped quaggas, or wild asses, and of brindled gnooks, which, for the first time, were seen through the forest, enlivened the scene." Here, notwithstanding the distress occasioned to the cattle by the scarcity of water, our author's spirits rose with a presage of the coming sport.

"As we advanced," he says, "the game became hourly more abundant, though still exceedingly wild. Groups of hartebeests, quaggas, and brindled gnooks, were everywhere to be seen. A short chase was sufficient to seal the fate of three quaggas, all males, averaging thirteen hands high. During the run, I had not seen a human being, and fancied myself alone; but I had scarcely dismounted to secure my game, when a woolly head protruded itself from every bush, and, in an instant, I was surrounded by thirty Barolonges, who, having by signs expressed their approbation of my performance, proceeded to devour the carcase with the greatest avidity, greedily drinking the blood, rubbing the fat upon their bodies, and not leaving so much even as the entrails for the birds of prey."

These poor people were the remnants of several Bechuana tribes, dispersed by wars, and reduced, by the loss of their cattle, to live on the game taken in pitfalls. The ruins of their once populous villages soon after engaged our traveller's attention. But his soul was about to be engrossed by more congenial objects. The whole country "presented the appearance of a moving mass of game." It was in an open forest, like a park, the great camelthorn trees being weighed down by the enormous nests of the social loxia, that the various species of game poured in, till the plain seemed alive.

"The clatter of their hoofs," says our author, "was perfectly astounding, and I could compare it to nothing but the din of a tremendous charge of cavalry, or to the rushing of a mighty tempest. I could not estimate the accumulated numbers at less than fifteen thousand."

The attack of Don Quixote on the flock of sheep was not more ardent, nor nearly so destructive, as that of Captain Harris on the mingled herds of wild animals. The various species fled in confusion, the tall necks of the ostriches being conspicuous above the gnooks, the antelopes, and the zebras. When the ignoble crowd was dispersed, two strange figures were perceived standing under a tree; these were Elands, the fattest and most delicious of African game. A short chase sufficed to tire these bulky animals, and the two Elands, measuring each above seventeen hands high at the shoulder, were brought

to the ground. It is interesting to contrast the Walton-like sentimentality of our keen sportsman, sated with the pleasures of killing, with the exuberant animal joy and wanton triumph of "the savages" who followed him, intent upon the feast. He says himself,—

"I was engaged in making a sketch of the one I had shot, when the savages came up, and, in spite of all my remonstrances, proceeded, with cold-blooded ferocity, to stab the unfortunate animal, stirring the blood, and shouting with barbarous exultation, as it issued from each newly-inflicted wound, regardless of the eloquent and piteous appeal, expressed in the beautiful clear black eye of the mild and inoffensive Eland."

One would suppose that the writer of this could have said to the Eland—

Thou canst not say I did it.

But enough of field sports, for the present. We must hasten to conduct our traveller to the presence of "the Great Black one," as the chieftain Moselekatse is styled by his adoring subjects.

Our author had not been long at Mosega, the frontier town of the Matabili nation,—where he was welcomed by the American missionary, Dr. Wilson,—before the messengers despatched by him to Moselekatse returned, with the welcome assurance that he was "the king's own white man," and pressing him to hasten to the royal residence at Kapani, about fifty miles further north. On the verdant slopes of the hills through which his route lay, he saw countless herds of sleek oxen; and fields of casier corn (*Holcus sorghum*) were cultivated in the neighbourhood of the villages. On the arrival of Capt. Harris at the king's village, he was met by Un'ombate, "a peer of the realm," or, in plain terms, a principal chief, who, in the preceding spring, had visited Cape Town in the quality of ambassador, and scratched his mark to a treaty now inscribed in the *fadera* of Great Britain. Had Capt. Harris directed any appreciable portion of his curiosity to the biped part of the creation, he might, we dare say, have given us a curious and instructive account of the impression made on this "peer of the realm," by his visit to the colony. The outlines of the other grandees are hit off by our author, as usual, in dark and dashing lines:—

"The next in rank was deeply scarred with the small-pox; and, excepting a necklace of lion's claws, three inflated gall-bladders on his pate, and a goodly coat of grease upon his hide, was perfectly naked. I saw nothing remarkable about any of the others. They all carried snuff-boxes stuck in their ears, a collection of skin streamers, like the tails of a lady's boa, attached to a thin waistcord, being the nearest approach to a habillament among them. All their heads were shaven, sufficient hair only being left to attach the *issigoko*, which is a ring composed of sinews attached to the hair and blackened with grease."

The king's approach was at length announced by the shouts of the people; two pousuivants yelling and cutting capers cleared the way in front, while in the rear followed women with calabashes of beer on their heads. Our author's portrait of this celebrated king of savages must not be here omitted.

"The expression of the despot's features, though singularly cunning, wily, and suspicious, is not altogether disagreeable. His figure is rather tall, well turned, and active, but leaning to corpulency; of dignified and reserved manners, the searching quickness of his eye, the point of his questions, and the extreme caution of his replies, stamp him at once as a man capable of ruling the wild and sanguinary spirits by whom he is surrounded. He appeared about forty years of age, but, being totally beardless, it was difficult to form a correct estimate of the years he had numbered. The elliptical ring on his closely shorn scalp, was decorated with three green feathers from the tail of the parouet, placed horizontally, two behind and one in front. A single string of small

blue beads encircled his neck, a bunch of twisted sinews encompassed his left ankle, and the usual girdle dangling before and behind, with leopards' tails completed his costume."

Moselekatse preserved his composure until the presents, consisting of beads, brass wire, snuff, a great coat lined with scarlet shalloon, and a tartan suit, were all spread before his eyes. He was then no longer able to contain himself, but, jumping up, he threw off the slender covering he had on, and commenced arraying himself in his new finery. This grotesque transformation being effected, he abruptly departed, ordering a sheep and some beer to be given to our author and his party. He soon, however, returned again, not in state, but unceremoniously, and by way of confidential interview. He was attired on this occasion in a handsome black leathern mantle, "its ample folds reaching to his heels, well became his tall and manly person; and he looked the very *beau idéal* of an African chief." He made many inquiries respecting King William's herds of cattle; and requested that the colonial traders might be informed of his desire to obtain muskets and ammunition in barter for elephants' teeth. Having retired, he sent his "white men" a supply of beer and the stewed breast of an ox. Our author, who censures Moselekatse's niggarliness, does not appear to have been aware that he was honoured with food reserved for the tables of kings. Among the Bechuanas and kindred nations the breast of every ox belongs to the chief, and to venture to eat it without his permission is an act of treason.

We need not describe minutely the dwelling of Moselekatse, which differs but little from that of his subjects. A ring of low huts enclosed within a circular fence accommodates himself and his thirty wives. The numerous lions' skulls, scattered over the area of the enclosure, attest the vigilance and courage of his herdsman. The chief, in his conversations with our author, asked him if he did not wish to see the great lake in the interior, and promised to send a party to escort him thither. Of this great lake, however, Moselekatse doubtless knew no more than what he had learned from his previous European visitors. Its existence, Captain Harris says, was first ascertained by Dr. Andrew Smith; but we have heard nothing which could lead us to believe that its existence is fully ascertained. It was with great difficulty, that our author obtained permission from the chief, to return to the colony by the nearer route of the Vaal or Yellow river; the emigrant boors having attacked the Matabili from that quarter, no access was permitted to the country of the latter, except from the direction of Kuruman. Our author's whimsical disregard of the savages, deprives us of any solid information respecting the history and resources of the Matabili. Their standing army, he tells us, amounts to 5,000 men; their wealth, or rather that of their chief, consists in their herds of cattle. The greatest of all crimes among them is, to be fat; corpulency being the king's prerogative.

On leaving the king's village, Captain Harris travelled for some time towards the south-east, till he reached the banks of the river Mariqua, where one of his dogs incautiously ran into the jaws of an enormous crocodile, for such is the proper denomination of what our author calls an "alligator." Near the banks of the river stood the remains of a village constructed on a raised platform, a mode of architecture suggested no doubt by the boldness of the crocodiles, and the number of wild beasts frequenting the banks of the river. Villages of this kind were described to Mr. Campbell, when he visited Kurichane in 1822, and appear to have been formerly common, though our author saw no second example of

them. A deserted village built on scaffolds was seen by the traders Scoon and M'Luckie in 1829; and at some distance to the eastward of our author's route, the above-named explorers found a still more remarkable exemplification of the same means of escaping the nocturnal ravages of wild beasts. They saw in fact a large tree, the branches of which, supported by forked sticks, were formed into three platforms one above the other, on which were constructed seventeen small huts, each capable of sheltering two persons conveniently. The ascent to the huts was by notched sticks, the first platform being nine, the third, twenty-five feet above the ground. As our travellers were marching eastward, they met a large herd of cattle which gathered round the waggons with manifest demonstrations of pleasure; they were in fact boors' cattle just captured, and at sight of the waggons they fancied themselves at home. The successful depredators soon made their appearance, and, being propitiated with snuff, conversed facetiously with our author. A chief named Lingap, who was acquainted with the taste of the strangers, descanted in this strain:

"His eyes glistened as he spoke of the pleasure he had derived, from feeling his spear enter white flesh. It slipped in, he said, grasping his assagai, and suiting the action to the word, so much more satisfactorily than into the tough hide of a black savage, that he preferred sticking a Dutchman to eating the king's beef."

The same men who thus showed off their ferocity for the edification of our author, would have been found capable, in the company of Mr. Campbell, or Mr. Moffat, of supporting an amusing and not unconstructive conversation. But we must now gird ourselves for the chase. Captain Harris had reached the Cashan Mountains, where he soon desisted the object of his aspirations.

"Here [he relates] a grand and magnificent panorama was before us, which beggars all description. The whole face of the landscape was actually covered with wild elephants. There could not have been fewer than three hundred within the scope of our vision. Every height and green knoll was dotted over with groups of them, whilst the bottom of the glen exhibited a dense and sable living mass, their colossal forms being at one time partially concealed by the trees, which they were disfiguring with giant strength; and at others seen majestically emerging into the open glades, bearing in their trunks the branches of trees with which they indolently protected themselves from the flies. The back ground was filled by a limited peep of the blue mountainous range, which here assumed a remarkably precipitous character, and completed a picture at once soul stirring and sublime."

We shall pass over the particulars of the attack on the elephants; the pages of our Nimrod are so filled with anecdotes of this kind of achievement, that we are bewildered in the attempt to choose among them. Suffice it to say, that a female elephant was laid low; and on the following morning, the sportsmen proceeded to survey their prize.

"Not an elephant was to be seen [observes our author] on the ground, that was yesterday teeming with them; but on reaching the glen, which had been the scene of our exploits during the early part of the action, a calf, about three and a half feet high, walked forth from a bush and saluted us with mournful piping notes. We had observed the unhappy little wretch, hovering about its mother after she fell, and having probably been unable to overtake the herd, it had passed a dreary night in the wood. Entwining its little proboscis about our legs, the sagacious creature, after demonstrating its delight at our arrival by a thousand ungainly antics, accompanied the party to the body of its dam. The conduct of the quaint little calf now became quite affecting, and elicited the sympathy of every one. It ran round its mother's corpse with touching demonstrations of grief, piping sorrowfully, and vainly attempting to raise her with its tiny trunk. I confess that I felt

compunctions in committing the murder the day before, and now half resolved."

But Captain Harris did not complete his resolution, and therefore continued the work of death with unabated alacrity. The young elephant voluntarily accompanied the party to the waggons, where, notwithstanding all the care bestowed on it, it died in a few days. The familiarity manifested by this creature may be added to many other proofs, that the timidity of wild animals is in a great measure the result of experience. On one occasion, as our author and his party were in chase of a herd of antelopes, a young zebra joined in the pursuit, and galloped, with much apparent glee, side by side with the horses.

Passing northward over the Cashan Mountains, our sportsmen travelled some distance down the banks of the river Limpopo, which flowing northward has hitherto guided the steps of all the explorers in that direction. The country watered by it, being varied, rich, beautiful; and being moreover abundantly stocked with the various species of large game, appeared to our author to be a very paradise. Of elephants, buffaloes, lions, the hippopotamus, and rhinoceros, and all the ignoble vulgus of zebras and antelopes, he had now almost grown tired, but as he feelingly observes, "who amongst our brother Nimrods, shall hear of riding familiarly by the side of a troop of colossal giraffes, and not feel his spirit stirred within him?" As these animals declined standing at a convenient distance to be shot at, "the boarding system" was put in practice against them, and found perfectly successful. Captain Harris, in short, rode down the camelopards; charging a drove of thirty of them, while he was charged in turn by three rhinoceroses: he threw his turban to the latter, and continued peppering his game, "till at the seventeenth discharge from the deadly grooved bore, bowing his graceful head from the skies, his proud form was prostrate in the dust." "Never," adds our enthusiastic author, "shall I forget the tingling excitement of that moment." This triumph appears to have contributed largely to satisfy his ambition. He had killed of large animals above four hundred head of various sorts and sizes. "Of these the minimum height at the shoulder had been three feet, and not a few had measured ten and twelve." His people were growing dissatisfied, his cattle jaded; his leave of absence was limited, and he had a long journey back. Under these circumstances, it is not surprising, that the country northward should appear to his eyes to grow worse, and that he should turn back when within fifty miles of the tropic.

Returning through the Cashan Mountains, Captain Harris came to the Chonapas, a beautiful stream flowing southward into the Vaal or Yellow river, which he found to be "teeming with hippopotami." It was the chase of these animals indeed, the hides and teeth of which are very valuable, that led to the rupture between Moselekatse and the emigrant boors, of which we shall give some account on a future occasion. The chieftain maintains, and not without some show of reason, that the valuable game in his dominions belongs to him. Having crossed the Vaal with some difficulty, our author and his party continued their route south-westward, over level and trackless plains of immense extent. He was hardly justified, however, in supposing, that he was the first who explored them. To say nothing of the expeditions of the roving boors, the same plains were crossed to the very sources of the Vaal river, seven or eight years ago, by the missionary Archbell. The nobler game now disappeared altogether, and the antelopes grew more shy; yet the gnoss, though rendered wild by constant persecution, were always sure to be

attracted by a red handkerchief, the exhibition of which made them charge past in a menacing manner, and at a little distance.

Hitherto, our traveller had enjoyed an uninterrupted series of triumphs, but misfortune loomed on him as he approached the frontier of civilized life. On Christmas-day, he pricked his steed over the smooth grassy plain, dealing death among the wondering crowds of springbucks, blesbucks, quaggas, and ostriches; for of the sixteen thousand bullets which he had carried with him, he seems to have been determined not to bring back a single one to the colony. The crowds of game increased as if by magic, till at last, tired of the sport, he raised his eyes, and perceived that the wide-spread mirage, so common in those sultry plains, had completely screened from view the waggons and every distant object that could direct his course. In vain he scoured the plain to seek some traces of the road which he had left. The sun set on his bewildered condition: alone and supperless he lay in a bush in the desert, and it was not till after the lapse of three days and nights of misery, that, through the kindness of some "savages," he found his way to the waggons. This accident, however, was soon followed by a more weighty calamity. All the cattle were driven off during the night by a party of bushmen; and when, after a tedious search, the retreat of the marauders was discovered, nineteen of the oxen were found killed, and most of the others maimed, or groaning under their wounds. A fresh supply of cattle was fortunately obtained from a party of boors located in the neighbourhood; and, after paying a visit to a large encampment of those emigrants, and struggling through numerous petty troubles, our adventurous sportsman returned to Graaf Reinet, with just ten shillings in his pocket. Seventy head of cattle had been lost in the course of the expedition, the expense of which was thus swelled to a sum of 800*l*. But Capt. Harris very justly observes, that a well-regulated expedition to the same part of Africa ought to cover its own expenses; in truth, the trading expeditions to which we have already alluded, sufficiently establish that point. But we shall now again return to those expeditions, in order to give our readers some idea of the extent of country embraced within them, having first made a few brief observations on the political circumstances of the country visited by our author.

It is melancholy to contemplate the changes which have taken place in the northern part of the Bechuana country since 1822. In that year, the migrating horde of the Mantatees destroyed Kurrichane, and numerous other towns between that place and Litakoo. Hence, where Mr. Campbell saw large villages and cultivated tracts several square miles in extent, our author found only crumbling stone walls and uninhabited wastes. The Matabili completed the dispersion of the Baharutsi, who dwelt in the hills of Kurrichane, and took possession of their country. Thus, a rude and warlike tribe took the place of one which had made a considerable progress in civilization; for the architecture, manufactures, and general husbandry of the Baharutsi, prove that they were by no means savages. The same may be said of the tribes that dwelt eastward of them, in the Cashan Mountains, previous to the invasion of the Matabili. Among those mountains, Capt. Harris saw numerous remains of stone dwellings and inclosures, with many other vestiges, he informs us, of a higher degree of civilization than now exists there. It is curious to compare these accounts of ruined stone buildings in South Africa, with those which led the Portuguese to believe, when they first arrived at Sofala, that the castles built by Solomon and the queen of Sheba still existed in Monomotapa, at no

great distance from the walls at Sofala, and to be reminded of the same kind of ruins noticed by Cape colonists, and the Baharutsi of the Cashan Mountains. We have seen David Harris, the Bechuana, who procured Limpopo, when he was coming from the north, thus came to Bamangwato, by his discovery from the north, who, in Wankits, Delagoa, commerce, Matabili, to Delagoa. A trader, north, viz. Matabili, consists, and here established a country, the environment, a separatist, down to suffer from that, had the shade of tropic, who first, Would, duciv, able to, the pastime, time was, author, tion of, (see A, Our, advent, aver, istence, The g, in his, last cl, grant, theme, future,

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great distance in the interior. They heard of stone walls at a place called N'fura, corrupted first into Afura, and thence into Ophir. It also deserves to be remarked, that very extensive ruins of the same kind exist, though known to few, and unnoticed by any traveller, within the limits of the Cape colony. We must also observe, that the rich mines of iron and copper manufactured by the Baharutsi are situated on the northern slope of the Cashan Mountains.

We have already stated, that a trader named David Hume has penetrated further through the Bechuana country than any other traveller. He proceeded northward along the banks of the Limpopo, till it began to bend towards the east, when he followed up the Nacongo, a river flowing from the north-west, into the Limpopo. He thus came to the country of the Bokasa and Bawangatu—probably in lat. 22° 30' N., and, by his devious route, not less than 1,200 miles from the colony. Messrs. Bain and Biddulph, who, in 1826, journeyed into the country of the Wankitsi, in lat. 25°, about 500 miles from Delagoa Bay, reached the western limit of these commercial expeditions. The country of the Matabili, along the Cashan Mountains, and thence to Delagoa Bay, has been visited again and again. A trader, named Gibson, travelled round to the northern side of Delagoa Bay; two others,—viz. Maugham and Jones, reached its southern shores with their waggons; a party of boors, consisting of eighteen families, with large flocks and herds, under the guidance of Louis Trechard, established themselves, in May 1836, in a fine country about 200 miles westward of the bay, the environs of which were examined by Bronkhorst and Potgeiter; but the party afterwards separating, Trechard and his dependents moved down to the shores of the bay, where they were suffering from fever in 1838. Thus, it appears, that however speculative geographers here may shudder at the thought of exploring the interior of tropical Africa, there are active spirits abroad who find both pleasure and profit in the task. Would that they could make their labours conducive to the interests of science! It is remarkable that the recognizance of Delagoa Bay by the parties above named, was made at the very time when, according to communications of high authority received from the Cape, the exploration of that country was deemed impossible—(see *Athen.* No. 568).

Our author concludes the narrative of his adventures with this declaration: "I can safely aver, that some of the happiest days of my existence have been passed in the wilds of Africa." The gaiety of his spirit is everywhere perceptible in his style, which rattles like small shot. His last chapter is devoted to the history of the emigrant boors, a very interesting and important theme, to which we shall gladly return on a future occasion.

*Memoir of Aaron Burr.* By M. L. Davis.  
*Private Journal of Ditto.* By same.

[Second Notice.]

We resume our notice of these works with a view to citing a few passages, which we select from a great mass of matter not unimportant, perhaps, in America, but comparatively without interest to English readers. In 1794 Burr in writing to his wife from Albany, whither he had gone in the course of his legal practice, gives a sketch of his voyage, which will serve as a pleasant contrast to the modern state of things on the same route. Albany is about 150 miles above New York, on the Hudson River. Fulton, it will be remembered, did not introduce steamboats till twelve years or more after that date:—

"We arrived here yesterday, after a hot, tedious passage of seven days. We were delayed as well by accidents as by calms and contrary winds. The first

evening, being under full sail, we ran ashore at Tappan, and lay there aground, in a very uncomfortable situation, twenty-four hours. With great labour and fatigue we got off on the following night, and had scarce got under sail before we missed our longboat. We lost the whole tide in hunting for it, and so lay till the morning of Wednesday. Having then made sail again, with a pretty strong head wind, at the very first tack the Dutch horse fell overboard. The poor devil was at the time tied about the neck with a rope, so that he seemed to have the alternatives of hanging or drowning (for the river is here about four miles wide, and the water was very rough); fortunately for him, the rope broke, and he went souse into the water. His weight sunk him so deep that we were at least fifty yards from him before he came up. He snorted off the water, and turning round once or twice, as if to see where he was, then recollecting the way to New York, he immediately swam off down the river with all force. We fitted out our longboat in pursuit of him, and at length drove him on shore on the Westchester side, where I hired a man to take him to Frederick's. All this delayed us nearly a whole tide more. The residue of the voyage was without accident, except such as you may picture to yourself in a small cabin, with seven men, seven women, and two crying children—two of the women being the most splenetic, ill-humoured animals you can imagine."

This journey, which, in those days, sometimes took a fortnight, is now regularly performed in about ten hours!

In domestic life, Burr, with all his faults, appears to very great advantage; he was a most affectionate husband and father. These volumes are full of letters, which prove this beyond question. Even as a slave-owner, there was something amiable in him. Slavery existed in New York till 1800, and Burr essentially helped to abolish it. All his slaves were regularly taught to read and write, and when absent from home he encouraged them to correspond with him. A specimen may interest the reader:

"Honoured Master,—I received your letter, and am happy to hear that you are in a good state of health. Harry went to Mr. Alston's farm the day after I received the letter, and the man had gone away on the 11th day of December. Stephen was not at home when he went there, and by what he could understand there was a great difference between Daniel and Stephen; and Harry says that for the time that he has been there he had not neglected his work. But, master, I wish to beg a favour of you; please to grant it. I have found there is a day-school, kept by an elderly man and his wife, near to our house, and if master is willing that I should go to it for two months, I think it would be of great service to me, and at the same time I will not neglect my work in the house, if you please sir.—Peggy."

Here we have another sample:—

"To Peggy Gaitin (a slave).

"Washington, January 4, 1804.

"You may assure the family that I never was in better health; that I have not been wounded or hurt, and have had no quarrel with anybody. I received your letter of the 29th this evening. Let nothing hinder you from going to school punctually. Make the master teach you arithmetic, so that you may be able to keep the accounts of the family. I am very much obliged to you for teaching Nancy. She will learn more from you than by going to school.

"I shall be at home about the last of this month, when I will make you all New Year's presents. Tell Harry that I shall expect to find a good road up to the house. Tell me what Harry is about, and what is doing at Montalto. Sam and George are well.

"You must write to Mrs. Alston about Leonora's child. Enclose your letter to me. I hope little Peter is doing well.

"A. Burr."

Burr, in spite of his unpopularity, always commanded admiration by his talents. When, as Vice-President, he dissolved the United States Senate in 1805—

"The whole Senate were in tears, and so unmanned that it was half an hour before they could recover themselves sufficiently to come to order, and choose a vice-president pro tem. At the president's, on

Monday, two of the senators were relating these circumstances to a circle which had collected round them. One said that he wished that the tradition might be preserved as one of the most extraordinary events he had ever witnessed. Another senator being asked, on the day following that on which Mr. Burr took his leave, how long he was speaking, after a moment's pause, said he could form no idea; it might have been an hour, and it might have been but a moment; when he came to his senses, he seemed to have awakened as from a kind of trance."

We heretofore made mention of his tour in the West. He visited New Orleans on that occasion—in 1805. The following sketch, in a letter, conveys a tolerable notion of the *tact* we have already noticed:—

"The inhabitants of the United States are here called Americans. I have been received with distinction. The mark of attention with which I have been most flattered is a letter from the holy sisters, the Ursuline nuns, congratulating me on my arrival. Having returned a polite answer to this letter, it was intimated to me that the saints had a desire to see me. The bishop conducted me to the cloister. We conversed at first through the grates; but presently I was admitted within, and I passed an hour with them greatly to my satisfaction. None of that calm monotony which I expected. All was gaiety, wit, and sprightliness. Saint A. is a very accomplished lady. In manners and appearance a good deal like Mrs. Merry. All, except two, appear to be past thirty. They were dressed with perfect neatness; their veils thrown back. We had a repast of wine, fruit, and cakes. I was conducted to every part of the building. All is neatness, simplicity, and order. At parting, I asked them to remember me in their prayers, which they all promised with great promptness and courtesy.—Saint A. with earnestness."

Our next extract has, ere this, probably startled some of the old enemies of Burr, since become admirers of another great personage, who, it will be seen, was involved in his famous *treason*:—

"During the year 1806 Colonel Burr was at the house of General Andrew Jackson for some days. Repeated and detailed conversations were held between them in relation to the expedition. Subsequently, General Jackson addressed a letter to Colonel Burr, in which he alluded to rumours that were afloat of his having hostile designs against the United States; adding that, if this were true, he would hold no communication on the subject; but, if untrue, and his intentions were to proceed to Mexico, he (Jackson) would join and accompany him with his whole division. To this the proper answer was given."

This was in 1806, in Tennessee. This same Mexican expedition was always a favourite scheme of Burr's. During his four years' exile, as it may be called, he had this project ever in his thoughts. On his arrival in London he brought the subject under the consideration of the British Ministry, and had interviews with Lord Melville, Mr. Canning, and other influential persons: but, considering our then relations with Spain, and the noble struggle she was engaged in, it was impossible for England to be a party to any scheme for separating the colonies from the mother country. Burr, too, was a suspected man—the effects of his excessive unpopularity at home was felt even in Europe, and after a few months residence here he was ordered to leave the kingdom. Still, his undoubted talent, and the high situation he had filled in the American government, secured for him many flattering attentions. Bentham appears to have welcomed him heartily, and for some time he resided with that illustrious man. On a subsequent visit to Edinburgh, he was very kindly received, and he described his residence there as a continued round of visiting. But though these facts are made clearly manifest in his *Journal*, which ought therefore to have been extremely interesting, it is, on the whole, meagre, enigmatical, and unsatisfactory, a mere record of personal incidents and names. During his residence in England, Burr was often in great

pecuniary difficulties, but this was carefully concealed from his friends, especially Bentham. "The benevolent heart of J. B.," he writes, "shall never be pained by the exhibition of my distress." Under all privations he maintained his cheerfulness, and thus pleasantly records an adventure, painful enough to a poor man:—

"London, December 21, 1808. In a garret at the Black Lion, Water Lane, London. Having made half a dinner at Queen's Square Place, drove off furiously to the White Horse, Piccadilly, to be in time for the Oxford stage. Having waited half an hour and the coach not come, the weather cool, went in to warm. Having warmed half an hour, and wondering at the delay, went out to see. The coach had been gone twenty minutes. My honest coachman, as well to be sheltered from the storm as for repose, had got inside and was sound asleep. Drove to Gloucester Coffee-house to take the mail. Was advised to go to the Golden something, Charing Cross. Thither went. The mail was full inside and out. Thence to the Saracen's Head. Thence back to the ship. To Fetter Lane. Coach full. To the Black Lion, Water Lane, Fleet—full, inside and out. To the Old Crown, Holborn—no coach hence till Friday. To the Bolt Inn, where found a seat in a coach to go at seven to-morrow, but no bed to be had. Went to the nearest inn, being the same Black Lion, where I am occupant of a garret room, up four flights of stairs, and a very dirty bed. \* \* Coach hire nine shillings.

"Oxford, December 22. Was called at six, to be ready for the coach at seven. Gave my baggage to a porter, but, being stopped a minute to make change, he got out of my sight. I missed the way, and when I got to the Bolt Inn the coach had gone. My passage having been paid in the evening, there was no inducement to wait for me. Pursued and had the good fortune to overtake the coach. Found in it one man. Having preserved perfect silence for a few minutes by way of experiment, I remarked that the day was very mild, which he flatly denied, and in a tone and manner as if he would have bit me. I laughed out heartily, and very kindly inquired into his morning's adventures. He was old, gouty, and very fat. No hack being to be had at that early hour, or, what is more probable, choosing to save the shilling, he had walked from his house to the inn. Had fallen twice; got wet and bruised, and was very sure that he should be laid up with the gout for six months. I sympathized with his misfortunes. Wondered at the complacency with which he bore them, and joined him in cursing the weather, the streets, and the hackney coachmen. He became complacent and talkative. Such is John Bull."

On leaving England, Burr proceeded to Gottingen, and thence through Germany to Paris. He now endeavoured to engage the Emperor in his schemes, but without success—indeed, suspicion attached to him from the first moment that he set foot on the continent; and when he had resolved to return to America, his passport was refused. In Paris, however, as in London, he received many proofs of personal kindness, and records in his Journal, with gratitude, the friendly attentions of Volney, Denon, the Duke de Bassano, Miss Williams, and others. But these gleams of sunshine were often followed by others of deep gloom—thus we find recorded in his Journal, written for his daughter, whom he idolized:—

"Nov. 3rd.—Your watch and your ring are both pawned for one thousand francs; 11th, 'My boots are at the shoemaker's to be soled. They are done, and I cannot redeem them.'"

"23rd.—I am about to undertake the translation from English into French of two octavo volumes for one hundred louis. It will take me three months hard work. Better than to starve. But the most curious part of the story is, that the book in question contains a quantity of abuse and libels on A. Burr."

"24th.—Came home and locked myself up against duns."

These following bear date in London, which he visited a second time:—

"30th.—I have serious thoughts of offering in

the lump the residue of your coins and medals. Trash indeed; but there happens to be a medal-monger who may value such trash; and, if he should offer ten guineas, they are gone—gone."

"Feb. 7th.—The cash has gone down to seven pence, and I have no tobacco; and coffee, and coal, and bread only for to-morrow."

"8th.—Held a consultation with myself about dining. Instead of having bread for the day, had not a mouthful, and was sick for want of tobacco. To dine and drink a pint of ale would just ruin me. So sent my little maid for fourpence worth of bread and an ounce of tobacco, threepence halfpenny; for which had to borrow a penny and a half of her; and having only coffee for the morning, and very scant, for J. Hug is to breakfast with me, agreed to omit the dinner, and take tea with my casonade, which found very good; with a bit of cheese made a hearty meal."

"Then went to Captain J. to attempt again to pledge your watch, but he could not or would not advance five pounds. Then home: took my p. d. t. and bouef froid; still the same half pound bought just ten days ago, and, with a pot of ale, made a feast."

Singular predicaments for the Vice-President of the Great Republic!—but this must suffice. The details we have quoted give but too fair a specimen of his melancholy, solitary, friendless career.

#### OUR LIBRARY TABLE.

*Statistics of the Colonies of the British Empire*, by R. Montgomery Martin.—It is beyond our power to test the accuracy of a work like this: but it is due to Mr. Martin that we should state, that it has been compiled from the official records of the Colonial office, free access to which was wisely and liberally granted to him; and that so far as we have had leisure to check its statements by the valuable reports of Mr. Porter, prepared at the Board of Trade, and presented to Parliament, we can bear testimony to its accuracy. This being assumed, the work will be found invaluable, as containing an immense mass of facts clearly and systematically arranged.

*A Treatise on the Integral Calculus*, by W. C. Ottey, M.A.—This is a compact and elegant little work, well suited to the purpose of conducting the student from the Processes of Differentiating to the more arduous task of Integrating Differential Equations. The elementary processes of Integration, being merely the inversions of the processes by which the Differentials of the original Functions were themselves obtained, can at once, and readily, be understood and acquired. A large class of integrals may thus be obtained by the simple inverse process, and another very extensive class require only the most simple artifices and substitutions to bring them within this class. These elementary portions of the Integral Calculus are elegantly and clearly developed in this little work; and the examples at the end are judiciously selected, and follow each other so as to conduct the student along his path to a more arduous ascent, smoothly and rapidly. When he has mastered this work, he will enter on the study of the higher branches of Calculus with considerable advantages.

*Our Wild Flowers familiarly described and illustrated*, by Louisa Anne Twamley.—The esteem in which we hold not only the class of subjects taken by Miss Twamley under her guardianship, but likewise her manner of presenting them to the public, was shown (*Athen.* 454, 455), by the space devoted to the fresh and graceful pages of her 'Romance of Nature.' The present essay, which, like its predecessor, is carefully and richly brought out,—is addressed to a younger class of readers, 'Our Wild Flowers' being familiarly described. That which is picturesque in their history is descanted upon more largely than their peculiarities of class and structure. We are also told all their old country names—all the legends concerning them, which originated in the days when

Each flower was a memorial quaint,

and which are not yet extinct among our peasantry. More than this, to lengthen the collection of verses which children love so well to associate with their

flower-gatherings, Miss Twamley intersperses her pages with good store of that pleasant and delicate rhyme

Which dwells,  
Like bells,  
Upon the ear—

rhyme easy to learn, if not likely to be long remembered. Were a stricter standard to be applied to her poetry, the critic would feel called on to protest against the carelessness of its structure: as it is, he may insist upon its cheerful and healthy spirit, and "be to its faults a little blind." The illustrative drawings are pretty, and carefully rendered.

*Gilbert's Railways of England and Wales*.—This is descriptive of an accurate and useful map of that extensive net of railways, whose meshes are about to cover this island. The account of the history and general nature of railways which it contains, will interest the general reader; while the lists of railways, either projected or executed, and of the canals of England, are conveniently arranged for reference by the man of business and the engineer.

*Gibbon's Decline and Fall of the Roman Empire*, Vol. XII.—Mr. Milman has now concluded his labours, and this valuable edition is complete.

*Opinions on the Holy Bible*.—This volume contains select passages from divines and others, bearing testimony to the truth and beauty of the sacred volume.

*Whistle-Binkie*, edited by A. Rodger.—A collection of Scotch songs, many of them said to be original, and not without merit.

*The Lady and the Saints*.—A somewhat absurd idea spun out to a most wearisome length.

New Editions have lately appeared of some valuable works. A second of *Rich's Memoirs on the Ruins of Babylon*, to which have been added Major Rennell's remarks on the topography of that city, a slight journal of a journey to Persepolis, with copies of several cuneiform inscriptions, &c.—of *Prior's Life of Burke*—*Millingen's Curiosities of Medical Experience*, revised and augmented—*Ord's England*—*Montgomery's Satan*—*Neele's Lectures on English Poetry*—*The Works of Burns*, with *Currie's Life and Notes*—*Stephens's South Australia*—*Gutzlaff's Three Voyages along the Coast of China*—*Lives of Scottish Writers*, 2 vols., by Dr. Irving, reprinted with additions from the *Encyclopædia Britannica*—*Monie Wauch and Lights and Shadows of Scottish Life*, each in a single volume—*The Last of the Plantagenets*. Mr. Bentley has also added to the Standard Novels, Sir E. Bulwer's *Pompeii*, and to his Standard Library Gleig's *Chelsea Hospital* and Irving's *Astoria*. We have also before us cheap editions of *Brook's Unsearchable Riches*—*Jeremy Taylor's Holy Living*—*Sherlock's Examination of Bellarmine's Notes of the Church*—*The Declaration of the Catholic Bishops*, and *Milner's Rule of Faith*.

*List of New Books*.—*Lindsay's Letters on Egypt*, Edom, &c., 3rd edit. 2 vols. post 8vo. 21s. cl.—*The Englishman's Greek Concordance*, royal 8vo. 2s. 2s. cl.—*A Narrative of the Greek Mission*, by Rev. S. S. Wilson, 8vo. 12s. cl.—*Bunyan's Pilgrim's Progress*, by Southey, new edit. crown 8vo. 10s. 6d. cl.—*Hours of Sadness, or Instructions and Comforts for Mourners*, 8s. 5s. cl.—*Mrs. Hewitt's Scripture Emblems*, 18mo. 3s. cl.—*Wordsworth's Greek Grammar*, 12mo. 3s. 6d. cl.—*Parliaments and Councils of England from William I. to the Revolution in 1688*, 8vo. 36s. bds.—*Prout's Sketches in France, Switzerland, and Italy*, imp. folio, 4s. 4s. bds.—*Taylor's Bee-Keeper's Manual*, 2nd edit. 12mo. 4s. cl.—*Wilson on the Corn Laws*, 8vo. 5s. cl.—*Moseley's Illustrations of Mechanics*, 8s. cl.—*Lindley's School Botany*, 8s. 6s. cl.—*Meade's Manual of Apocryphes*, Hall, 12mo. 10s. 6d. cl.—*Gurtin on Health*, new edit. 8s. 6d. cl.—*Bickerton on Prayer*, new edit. 5s. cl.—*Jewel's Apology*, translated by Rev. W. W. Ewbank, 12mo. 3s. 6d. cl.—*Births, Deaths, and Marriages*, by Theodore Hook, 3 vols. post 8vo. 31s. 6d. bds.—*Tis an old Tale*, and often Told, post 8vo. 10s. 6d. bds.—*Cressy's Treatise on Bridges*, 8s. folio, 21s.—*Lockhart's Life of Sir W. Scott*, 2nd edit. Vol. I. 8s. 3s. cl.—*Ritter's Ancient Philosophy*, Vol. III., from the German, by the Rev. A. L. W. Morrison, 8vo. 18s. 6d. cl.—*Maughams Law of Attorneys, Statutes*, &c. 6s. bds.—*Gwilt's Rudiments of Architecture*, 2nd edit. royal 8vo. 12s. cl.—*The Juvenile Naturalist*, by the Rev. B. H. Draper, square, 6s. 6d. cl.—*The Popular Songs of Ireland*, edited by T. C. Croker, post 8vo. 10s. 6d. cl.—*The Fergusons, or Woman's Love and the World's Favour*, 2 vols. post 8vo. 21s. bds.—*Turner's Sermons*, 8vo. 12s. bds.—*Cox's Our Great High Priest*, 12mo. 3s. cl.—*No Fiction*, new edit. 12mo. 6s. cl.—*The Democrat of Marylebone*, by I. W. Brooke, post 8vo. 6s. 6d. bds.—*Hack's English Stories of the Olden Times*, 2 vols. 12mo. 12s. cl.—*The Poor Rich Man and Rich Poor Man*, new edit. royal 32mo. 2s. cl.

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## FOREIGN CORRESPONDENCE.

Athens, January 17, 1839.

STROLLING, not many days since, to the Theatre of Bacchus, for the purpose of examining a newly-discovered inscription in honour of a choragic victor, I was somewhat surprised to hear a clear voice reading Greek. Behind some ruined architraves sat two Greek youths, one of whom was reading Plato to the other: they were both students of the Gymnasium, and, as is the common practice among the poorer youths of their class, had preferred the quiet angles of the rocks and ruins about the Acropolis, as a place of study, to their close and noisy lodgings. This little incident led me to make inquiries as to the educational institutions of Athens, the results of which are as follows. The University (*Πανεπιστήμιον*), founded little more than a year since, has no less than thirty professors, some of whom are honorary. The present number of students attending the lectures does not exceed 130, but this will speedily be augmented, as the Greek youths pass through the Gymnasium. The faculties are divided into Theology, Law, Medicine, and Philosophy: the former has four lectures a day,—on the introduction to the Scriptures, Ecclesiastical History, Hebrew Archaeology, and the Hebrew Language. Law has no less than six Professors, who lecture on Mercantile Law, Social Rights, Civil Jurisprudence, Roman and French Law, Penal Law, and Political Economy. Medicine has eight Professors, their lectures being on Pathology, Nosology, Medical Law, Anatomy, Surgery, Diseases of the Eye, &c. Philosophy is divided into Archeology, Mathematics, Moral Philosophy, Botany, History of Ancient Greek Philosophy, with Latin, Zoology, Mineralogy, &c. Of the thirty Professors, eight only are Germans, all the rest being Greeks. For the present, perhaps, the Gymnasium is a more important institution than the University: its crowded rooms, and the evident eagerness of the pupils show how instruction is prized; and the progress made by the young men is truly astonishing. The Gymnasium has eight Professors, and is divided into three classes:—

1. Ancient Greek, Latin, Geometry, Moral Science, Algebra, and Logic.
2. Ancient Greek, Geometry, Algebra, Psychology, History.
3. Ancient Greek, Latin, Algebra, Geography, History, French and English.

The number of regular students is 800, but many more attend particular lectures; the whole being, as the University, gratis.

With the Gymnasium is connected a high school, divided into four classes, which is attended by a crowd of youths anxious to get their certificates of competency to enter the Gymnasium.

There is, independent of these schools, a normal school, for the education of schoolmasters for all Greece; and, attached to it, a Lancasterian school of about 200 boys. Another Lancasterian school, of about 150 boys, is supported by the municipality of Athens.

A Lancasterian school for girls, attended by about 150, is supported by the contributors of a society called the Friends of Education. Besides these public institutions is an excellent school, attended by near 500 boys and girls, and divided into several classes, conducted by the American missionaries, Mr. and Mrs. Hill, who established it, in a handsome building erected for the purpose, about five years since. These Christian philanthropists have gained the entire confidence of the Greeks, and, by the earnest desire of many of the best families, have lately received fifty young ladies into their house, who receive that higher education fitted to their station in society. To those who know that female education has hitherto been totally neglected in Greece (so lately emerged from the Turkish system), the important influence which these young women, educated in truly Christian and European principles, may exert in future, is subject of great gratification. In the various towns of Greece, there exist 4 gymnasias, 12 primary schools, and 180 Lancasterian schools, supported, partly by the government, and partly by the communes. It is, however, to be regretted, that the government has scarcely pushed the school system into the villages; that in many places the masters are not very competent, and that there is a general want of school-books. At Syra, besides the commercial schools, is a large and well-conducted boys' and

girls' school (attended by from 200 to 300 of each sex), long since established by the English Church Missionary Society, and now conducted by Mr. and Mrs. Hiederer.

Such, then, is the present state of education in the Hellenic kingdom. In no country is education, perhaps, more prized by the population. It is, however, greatly to be regretted that so few books exist in modern Greek, and that no measures are taken to augment them: few exertions of philanthropy would be more acceptable, or contribute more to practical usefulness, than the formation of a society for the translation of useful books into modern Greek. There are, now here, many competent to make translations from the French and English, could the funds be provided.

## OUR WEEKLY GOSSIP.

If a man were compelled to trust to any one indication of the state of opinion, in a literary and civilized country, we know not that he could find a better than is offered in such journals of periodical criticism as those of England, France, Germany, and America. The ground they cover is no less than the whole sphere of human thought; and by the peculiar manner in which the debatable subjects of the moral world are handled in each, we can hardly fail to recognize strong traces of whatever may exist of bias, prejudice, or mannerism, in the intellectual and moral character of the nation it addresses. In the 102nd number of the *North American Review*, lately received from Mr. Kennett, we recognize the sober and earnest tone of a nation accustomed to think freely and to speak boldly. There is a temperance and calmness in the generality of its discussions,—an exemption from that querulous and petulant vituperation, which (whatever else may be thought of it) certainly indicates in its adoption no great reliance on the strength of argument, or assurance of the truth of the cause it is brought forward to defend. It is clear, that the better part at least of our transatlantic brethren have not arrived (excepting always what regards the question of slavery,) quite so near as Englishmen have imagined to that acme of social perfection, in which all virtue concentrates in conformity of opinion; and in which, to impugn, or to hesitate as to the conventionally orthodox, is familiarly made a title to anathema and excommunication. We would also take this number by itself as a sufficient warranty for the unsoundness of an opinion very prevalent in this country, that North America is growing aristocratical in its predilections. True it is, that some of the American guests at our great tables bring with them a wish for greater personal distinctions than their domestic institutions will admit: they admire that social phenomenon, a lord, as we do a giraffe, for its strangeness; and they relish the ease and refinement only to be found in an old and long-established community. It is probable also, that the same hankering after high-life, which is occasionally found among our wealthy merchants, may exist among the same class of persons in the great cities on the Atlantic shore. But that such a weakness has found its way into the interior, or has penetrated either widely or deeply among the people, is quite incompatible with the solid, substantial articles which we are about to notice, and with the absence of a single page dedicated to the amusement of the trifling and effeminate, or to the wilful perversion of public opinion. The papers, which occupy twenty sheets of letter-press, are, in number, but eight. Of these, the review of Bowditch's translation of La Place's '*Mécanique Céleste*,' with an account of the translator, is a happy attempt to familiarize unlearned and general readers with the great phenomena of the creation—and to illustrate the immensity of the labour and reach of mind of the gigantic expounders of its philosophy. In the life of Bowditch, a rare example of self-taught genius is held out to his countrymen; for that distinguished man "enjoyed no advantages of instruction in early childhood, beyond those of attendance at a public [*i. e.* national free] school." Yet by his own unassisted efforts he mastered the most abstruse departments of mathematics,—teaching himself Latin, in order to understand the Principia of Newton, of which chance provided him with a copy. Happy those nations where such opportunities are offered to the humble and lowly; and we earnestly hope that it will not be long before Eng-

land may take rank among them. We have, in the fifth article, an honest and indignant appeal in behalf of literary property, with an advocacy of a law of international copyright, and this in defiance of the American publishers, who are strongly prejudiced against such a law. No. VII. affords an interesting account of the peculiarities of Chinese writing. The opening article introduces its readers to the researches of Micali into the history of Italy before the Romans. This circumstance proves, as far as it goes, that a love of classic literature is beginning to make known its demand in the literary markets of the United States. There is also a short article on British encroachments on the Orizon territory, by no means promising as to the speedy termination of our disputes with the States government on that point. The remaining papers are of an equally grave character; they all concern works of travel and nautical discovery, including Stephens's '*Travels in the East*,' noticed at length towards the close of last year in the *Athenæum*.

The following is an extract of a letter received by Professor Lloyd from M. d'Abbadie, relating to his scientific expedition in Africa, and which was read at a late meeting of the Royal Irish Academy:—"Adwa (Abyssinia), July 24th, 1838.—Our voyage to Abyssinia (my brother accompanied me) was chiefly undertaken in order to learn the principal languages of that country, and the best manner of travelling in it, with a view of returning to Europe, there to prepare a complete and well directed expedition. We left Cairo in December 1837, and proceeded by Kenah and Cosair to Djiddah, where I took a great deal of pains to correct, by local information, the nomenclature of places on the Red Sea.\* We next proceeded to Massawa, where I remained alone for nearly two months, studying the Hababi tongue, a Semitic language, nearly allied to Ethiopic, and spoken from Ansky [Annesley?] Bay almost as far as Sawakim. The customs and manners of the Habab tribes afforded me several proofs of their Arabian origin." M. d'Abbadie at length arrived in Goander [Göndar], the splendid but fallen capital of Ethiopia. "Here (he says) I made myself master of the Amaria [Amhara] language, at least enough to travel without an interpreter, and got some valuable information on the sources of the White Nile. Our object being now attained, it was high time to turn back before the swollen waters of the Tacazay had completely shut up the road towards the sea-coast. But my brother could never be induced to give up the game that seemed already within his grasp; and when we parted at Goander, he was already directing his steps to the unknown regions of Damoh [Damot], Enären, Kafa, and Djandjow [Gingero?]. May the Almighty God look with favour on the daring and lonely traveller!" M. d'Abbadie was less fortunate than Bruce or Rüppell in the carriage of his barometers, which were all broken in his ascent of the mountains. He was therefore obliged to have recourse, for the measurement of heights, to observations on the temperature of boiling water. We confess that our habitual mistrust of observations of so delicate a nature, made in the field, is not diminished by the inspection of those now before us; nor do we assent to the expectation that "they will throw some light on the long-disputed question of the height of Abyssinian mountains." For the sake, however, of those who may take the trouble to calculate M. d'Abbadie's observations, we shall mention, that the absolute height of Bowähet (the Bawhit of the French traveller), as determined barometrically by Rüppell, is 13,600 Parisian, or about 14,500 English feet; that of Göndar, 6,700 French feet. One passage in M. d'Abbadie's letter presents a problem which, we confess, almost threw us into despair. He says—"During three tedious months on the Red Sea, I succeeded in learning the Ilmorina language, which is spoken through immense tracts of central Africa." Now, who ever before heard of the widely-spread Ilmorina language? The pleasure to be derived, in this instance, from the magnitude of the discovery, is counteracted by the mortifying sense of our total ignorance which it carries with it. But when

\* We believe that the East India Company have in preparation, if they have not already published, a chart of the Red Sea, in which the names, written in the Arabic character, have been carefully revised by Rassem, the learned Chaldean, who now accompanies Mr. Ainsworth in his expedition to Syria.

we had nearly lost all hope of divining the proper seat of this newly-discovered language, an explanation of the difficulty flashed across our mind, extremely satisfactory in every respect, except so far as the exactness of M. d'Abbadie's researches is concerned. We have little doubt, then, that the language here called Ilmorra is that of the Maréma, a name which, though it now wears an African form, and is, by the Portuguese writers, appropriated to the tribes occupying the coasts at Kilwa and Mombas, is, we have no doubt, a general designation, of Arabic origin. The eastern coast of Africa is, at the present day, called by the Arabs "Ardh el-Morayim"—that is, the sought-for land, or, as it is vulgarly understood, Newfoundland. Black slaves from the eastern coast of Africa, are extremely numerous in the Red Sea, and constitute the majority of the crews of the Arab vessels. The languages of Africa, south of the equator, are radically the same, from the eastern to the western coast; and hence the el-maréym, or language of the Maréma, may be justly said to be spoken through immense tracts. Yet this is a vague mode of expression; and we venture to predict, that the Ilmorra language of M. d'Abbadie will prove to be the Sawahily, of which Salt (who writes it Sowhily) has given some specimens, and of which a copious vocabulary now lies before us.

Sir John Robison, of Edinburgh, has communicated to the *Académie des Sciences*, a curious fact, which he considers may possibly have some relation to the discovery of M. Daguerre. A medical man, having occasion to bleed a patient, caught the blood in a porcelain basin, at the bottom of which was painted a bouquet of flowers. Some time after, the blood having become coagulated, he was about to throw it away, when, on removing the clot, he observed on the surface which had been in contact with the bottom of the basin, a perfectly distinct design in bright red of such parts of the bouquet as consisted of green colour—the leaves, &c. Sir John has since repeated the experiment several times, and always with the same result.

We notice with satisfaction the recent royal grant of a pension of 200*l.* a year to Colonel Gurwood, the laborious collector and editor of the Duke of Wellington's Despatches.

The Council of the Royal Irish Academy have awarded the Cunningham medal, given for the most important paper on Physics communicated to the Society during the three years ending in March 1838, to Dr. Apjohn, for his essay on a new method of investigating the Specific Heats of the Gases.

The rumour of Paganini's benefaction to Berlioz made us anxious to ascertain the real amount of idea in the compositions of this Beethoven redivivus; the opportunity of effecting such an examination, as far as concerns his management of orchestral effect, being hitherto denied us. But we have spent a long morning over his 'Sinfonie Fantastique,' arranged for the pianoforte by Liszt, and are enabled, without undue haste or presumption, to state our opinion, that whatever may be the novelty of the instrumental mixtures employed by M. Berlioz—however grand may be his masses of sound—however delicate his exposition of particular melodies—his regards originality and invention, he stands very low in the scale of composers. Beethoven the first could afford to throw away chords and melodies even in his 'Bagatelles'—to introduce accessory *motifs* and episodic phrases into his elaborate compositions, in the least of which there is more life, and meaning, and expression, than in the entire foundation upon which this enormous 'Sinfonie' is built. It is a Babel, and not a Babylon of music. Be it remembered, however, that in all that concerns orchestral colouring, we are as far as ever from being able to pronounce any opinion on the works of M. Berlioz.

To announce the deaths of foreign artists on the authority of the daily papers, would appear to be a certain waste of time and ink. After having been killed and lamented by the whole round of the press, Signora Judith Grisi has come to life again, *as usual*. This week's journals, however, bring us such circumstantial particulars of the manner, as well as the time, of poor Nourrit's death, that we know not how to disregard the rumours. It is said that this admirable artist, after suffering serious chagrin on vacating his throne at the French Opera, to make way

for Duprez, had been called on to endure such further mortifications in the fulfilment of his Neapolitan engagement, that the firmness of his mind entirely gave way; until, finally, after having been hissed by a few malcontents (the Neapolitans hissed 'Guillaume Tell' from beginning to end,) when singing his part in *Norma*—he came home, deliberately addressed several farewell letters to his friends; then precipitated himself through the window—and was found dead on the stones of the court-yard below. It is needless to dwell on the painfulness of this tale, if it turn out to be true. The same feelings after the "high-wrought French fashion," which drove the long-admired artist to such a melancholy act, were those which made him so excellent and conscientious, but withal so factitious an actor and singer. The place for Nourrit was the *Académie Royale*—the proper opportunity for the display of his powers, the grand five-act opera. Every personification he presented had received the highest possible finish. Every look, tone, gesture, had been considered and studied and sifted, till the result was completeness and consistency. It is true that, weary of his high and nasal *falsetto*, we used to long while hearing him, especially in the delivery of melodies, for the sweeter *bocca* of the Italians—but we now feel that a rare combination of science, enthusiasm, and experience has passed from the stage—and regret the loss of an accomplished artist.

The following letter will speak for itself. There can be no doubt that Mr. Colburn has been unintentionally led into the strange error.

March 21, 1838.

Mr. Henry Reeve begs the editor of the *Athenæum* to insert the following translation of a letter which he has received from M. de Tocqueville:—

My dear Reeve,—I see in the *Morning Chronicle* that a book of mine, entitled 'Society in Great Britain,' is preparing for publication by Henry Colburn, the bookseller.

This advertisement contains a gross falsehood, against which I feel bound to protest in the strongest manner. I have never written, nor ever had the intention of writing a single word respecting the State of Society in Great Britain. You know that I have a very high opinion of the English people, but I have never flattered myself that I know them intimately enough to be able to describe them.

I beg you to have the goodness to give as much publicity as possible to this contradiction. Yours, &c.

ALEXIS DE TOCQUEVILLE.

Au Chateau de Tocqueville,

March 17, 1838.

P.S.—If the book thus advertised actually appears under my name, I authorize you to prosecute the publisher at law.

#### BRITISH INSTITUTION, PAUL MALL.

The GALLERY for the EXHIBITION and SALE of the WORKS of BRITISH ARTISTS, is OPEN DAILY, from Ten in the Morning until Five in the Evening.

Admission, 1*s.* 6*d.* Catalogue, 1*s.*

WILLIAM BARNARD, Keeper.

#### ROYAL GALLERY OF PRACTICAL SCIENCE,

ADELAIDE STREET, WEST STRAND.

Brilliant Exhibition of the Phenomena of Polarized Light, shown by Mr. Goddard's Polaroscope; Grand Oxy-hydrogen Microscope, with a vast variety of novel objects. The Steam Gun, Electric Eel, Electricity, Magnetism, Working Models of Steam Engines in action and explained, Daily Lectures and Experiments on various branches of Physical Philosophy. Mr. Jennings' Safety Signal Lamps, to prevent Collision of Steam Vessels, shown in action daily after the Microscope, with other attractive objects connected with practical Science and its applications.—Admission, 1*s.*—Open from Ten o'clock daily.

#### THE THAMES TUNNEL.

Entrance near the Church at Rotherhithe, on the Surrey side of the River.

Is OPEN to the Public every Day (except Sunday), from Nine in the Morning until Dark.—Admission, 1*s.* each.—Both Archedways are brilliantly lighted with gas, and the descent to them is by a new and more commodious Staircase.—The Tunnel is now upwards of eight hundred and sixty feet in length, and completed to within a distance of less than 60 feet of low water mark on the Middlesex shore.

Thames Tunnel Office,  
Walbrook Buildings, Walbrook,  
March, 1838.

By order,  
JOSEPH CHARLIER,  
Clerk to the Company.

#### SCIENTIFIC AND LITERARY

##### ROYAL SOCIETY.

Feb. 28.—'Observations on the Parallel Roads of Glen Roy and of other parts of Lochabar, with an attempt to prove that they are of marine origin,' by Charles Darwin, Esq. M.A.

The author premises a brief description of the parallel roads, shelves, or lines, as they have been indefinitely called, which are most conspicuous in Glen Roy and the neighbouring valleys, referring for more detailed accounts to those given by Sir Thomas Dick Lauder, in the *Transactions of the Royal Society of Edinburgh*, and by Dr. McCulloch, in those of the *Geological Society of London*. Both these geologists endeavour to explain the formation

of these shelves, on the hypothesis of their resulting from depositions at the margin of lakes, which had formerly existed at those levels. The author, however, shows that this hypothesis is inadmissible, from the insuperable difficulties opposed to any conceivable mode of the construction and removal, at successive periods, of several barriers of immense size, whether placed at the mouths of the separate glens or at more distant points. He does not, however, propose the alternative that the beaches, if not deposited by lakes, must of necessity have been formed by channels of the sea, because he deems it more satisfactory to prove, from independent phenomena, that a sheet of water, gradually subsiding from the height of the upper shelves to the present level of the sea, occupied for long periods, not only the Glens of Lochabar, but the greater number, if not all, the valleys of that part of Scotland, and that this water must have been that of the sea. It is argued by the author, that the fluctuating element must have been the land, from the ascertained fact of the land rising in one part, and at the same time sinking in another; and therefore, that this change of level in Scotland, attested as it is by marine remains being found at considerable heights both on the eastern and western coasts, implies the elevation of the land, and not the subsidence of the surrounding waters. The author next shows that in all prolonged upward movements of this kind, it might be predicted, both from the analogy of volcanic action and from the occurrence of lines of escarpment, rising one above the other in certain regions, that, in the action of the subterranean impulses, there would be intervals of rest. On the hypothesis that the land was subjected to these conditions, it appears that its surface would have been modelled in a manner exactly similar, even in its minute details, to the existing structure of the valleys in Lochabar. Considering that he has thus established his theory, the author proceeds to remove the objections which might be urged against its truth, derived from the non-extension of the shelves, and the absence of organic remains at great altitudes. He then shows how various details respecting the structure of the Glens of Lochabar, such as the extent of corrosion of the solid rock, the quantity of shingle, the numerous levels at which water must have remained, the forms of the heads of the valley, where the streams divide, and especially their relation with the shelves, and the succession of terraces near the mouth of Glen Spean, are all explicable on the supposition that the valleys had become occupied by arms of a sea which had been subject to tides, and which had gradually subsided during the rising of the land; two conditions which could not be fulfilled in any lake. From the attentive consideration bestowed by the author on these several and independent steps of the argument, he regards the truth of the theory of the marine origin of the parallel roads of Lochabar—a theory of which the foundation-stone may be said to have been laid by the important geological researches of Mr. Lyell, establishing the fact of continents having slowly emerged from beneath the sea, as being sufficiently demonstrated. The author states, in the concluding part of his paper, the following as being the chief points which receive illustration from the examination of the district of Lochabar by Sir Thomas Dick Lauder, Dr. McCulloch, and himself. It appears that nearly the whole of the water-worn materials in the valleys of this part of Scotland were left, as they now exist, by the slowly retiring waters of the sea; and the principal action of the rivers since that period has been to remove such deposits; and, when this had been effected, to excavate a wall-sided gorge in the solid rock. Throughout this entire district, every plain, and most of the lesser inequalities of surface are due, primarily to the elevating forces, and, secondarily, to the modelling power of successive beach-lines. The ordinary alluvial action has been exceedingly insignificant, and even moderately sized streams have worn much less deeply into the solid rock than might have been anticipated, during the vast period which must have elapsed since the sea was on a level with the upper shelves: even the steep slopes of turf over large spaces, and the bare surface of certain rocks, having been perfectly preserved during the same lapse of time. The elevation of this part of Scotland, to the amount of at least 1,278 feet, was extremely gradual, and was inter-

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rupted by long intervals of rest. It took place either during the so-called "erratic block period," or afterwards; and it is probable that the erratic blocks were transported during the quiet formation of the shelves. One of these was found at an altitude of 2,200 feet above the present level of the sea. The most extraordinary fact is, that a large tract of country was elevated to a great height, so equally that the ancient beach-lines retain the same curvature, or nearly so, which they had when forming the margin of the convex surface of the ancient waters. The inferences drawn by the author from these facts, and which he corroborates by other evidence, are, that a large area must have been uplifted, and that its rise was effected by a slight change in the convex form of the fluid matter on which the crust of the earth rests; and therefore that the fluidity of the former is sufficiently perfect to allow of the atoms moving in obedience to the law of gravitation, and consequently of the operation of that law modified by the centrifugal force: and lastly, that even the disturbing forces do not tend to give to the earth a figure widely different from that of a spheroid in equilibrium.

March 7.—The Marquis of Northampton, President, in the chair.

George Gulliver, Esq. and George Godwin, junior, Esq. were elected Fellows. Arthur Farre, M.B. was proposed as a candidate.

The following papers were read:—

1. Researches in Physical Geology, Third Series, 'On the Phenomena of Precession and Nutation, assuming the interior of the earth to be a heterogeneous fluid,' by W. Hopkins, Esq. M.A.

Having, in his last memoir, completed the investigation of the amount of precession and nutation, on the hypothesis of the earth's consisting of a homogeneous fluid mass, contained in a homogeneous solid shell, the author here extends the inquiry to the case in which both the interior fluid and external shell are considered as heterogeneous. After giving the details of his analytical investigation, he remarks that he commenced the inquiry in the expectation that the solution of this problem would lead to results different from those previously obtained, on the hypothesis of the earth's entire solidity. This expectation was founded on the great difference existing between the direct action of a force on a solid, and that on a fluid mass, in its tendency to produce a rotatory motion; for, in fact, the disturbing forces of the sun and moon do not tend to produce directly any motion in the interior fluid, in which the rotatory motion causing precession and nutation is produced indirectly by the effect of the same forces on the position of the solid shell. A modification is thus produced in the effects of the centrifugal force, which exactly compensates for the want of any direct effect from the action of the disturbing forces; a compensation which the author considers as scarcely less curious than many others already recognized in the solar system, and by which, amidst many conflicting causes, its harmony and permanence are so beautifully and wonderfully preserved. The solution of the problem obtained by the author destroys the force of an argument, which might have been urged against the hypothesis of central fluidity, founded on the presumed improbability of our being able to account for the phenomena of precession and nutation on this hypothesis, as satisfactorily as on that of internal solidity. The object, however, of physical researches of this kind, is not merely to determine the actual state of the globe, but also to trace its past history through that succession of ages, in which the matter composing it has probably passed gradually through all the stages between a simple elementary state to that in which it has become adapted to the habitation of man. In this point of view the author conceives the problem he proposes is not without value, as demonstrating an important fact in the history of the earth, presuming its solidification to have begun at the surface—namely, the permanence of the inclination of its axis of rotation, from the epoch of the first formation of an exterior crust. This permanence has frequently been insisted on, and is highly important as connected with the speculations of the author on the causes of that change of temperature which has probably taken place in the higher latitudes; all previous proofs of this fact having rested on the assumption of the earth's entire solidity, an assumption which, whatever may be the actual state

of our planet, can never be admitted as applicable to it at all past epochs of time, at which it may have been the habitation of animate beings. The author concludes by expressing a hope that he may be enabled to prosecute the inquiry still further, and to bring before the Royal Society, at a future time, the matured results of his speculations.

2. 'On the Male Organs of some of the Cartilaginous Fishes,' by John Davy, M.D.

In this paper, which is wholly occupied with anatomical details, the author refers to his paper on the torpedo, which was published in the Philosophical Transactions for 1834; and also to Müller's work, 'De Glandularum Scercentium Structura Penitiori,' whose descriptions and views are not in accordance with those given in that paper. In the present memoir he adduces evidence of the accuracy of his former statements, and offers some conjectures respecting the functions of several organs found in cartilaginous fishes, but does not pretend to attach undue importance to his speculations.

March 14.—J. W. Lubbock, Esq. V.P. and Treas. in the chair.

The Rev. Charles Turner, M.A. and William Sharpey, M.D. were proposed as candidates. G. W. Featherstonhaugh, Esq. was re-elected; and Clement Tudway Swanston, Esq. was elected a Fellow.

The following papers were read:—

1. 'An Experimental Inquiry into the Formation of Alkaline and Earthy Bodies, with reference to their presence in Plants, the influence of Carbonic Acid in their generation, and the equilibrium of this gas in the atmosphere,' by Robert Rigg, Esq. Communicated by the Rev. J. B. Reade.

The object of the author in the present memoir is to show, that the solid materials which compose the residual matter in the analysis of vegetable substances, and which consist of alkaline and earthy bodies, are actually formed during the process of fermentation; whether that process be excited artificially by the addition of a small quantity of yeast to fermentable mixtures, or take place naturally in the course of vegetation, or of spontaneous decomposition. His experiments also tend to show, that this formation of alkaline and earthy bodies is always preceded by the absorption of carbonic acid, whether that acid be naturally formed, or artificially supplied. He finds, also, that different kinds of garden mould, some being calcareous, others siliceous, and others aluminous, exposed in retorts to atmospheres consisting of a mixture of carbonic acid gas and common air, absorbed large quantities of the former, combining with it in such a manner as not to afford any traces of this carbonic acid being disengaged by the action of other acids. He considers the result of this combination to be the formation of an alkaline body, and also of a colouring matter. This combination takes place to a greater extent during the night than during the day: and in general, the absorption of carbonic acid by the soil is greatest in proportion as it is more abundantly produced by the processes of vegetation; and conversely, that it is least at the time when plants decompose this gas, appropriating its basis to the purposes of their own system. Hence, he conceives, that there is established in nature, a remarkable compensating provision, which regulates the quantity of carbonic acid in the atmosphere, and renders its proportion constant.

2. 'Note on the Art of Photography, or the application of the Chemical Rays of Light to the purposes of Pictorial Representation,' by Sir John F. W. Herschel, Bart.

The author states, that his attention was first called to the subject of M. Daguerre's concealed photographic processes, by a note from Capt. Beaufort, dated the 22nd of January last, at which time he was ignorant that it had been considered by Mr. Talbot, or by any one in this country. As an enigma to be solved, a variety of processes at once presented themselves, of which the most promising are the following:—First, the so-called de-oxidizing power of the chemical rays in their action on recently-precipitated chloride of silver: secondly, the instant and copious precipitation of a mixture of a solution of muriate of platinum and lime-water, by solar light, forming an insoluble compound, which might afterwards be blackened by a variety of agents: thirdly, the reduction of gold in contact with de-oxidizing

agents: and fourthly, the decomposition of an argentine compound, soluble in water exposed to light, in an atmosphere of peroxide of chlorine, either pure or diluted. Confining his attention, in the present notice, to the employment of chloride of silver, the author inquires into the methods by which the blackened traces can be preserved, which may be effected, he observes, by the application of any liquid capable of dissolving and washing off the unchanged chloride, but of leaving the reduced, or oxide of silver, untouched. These conditions are best fulfilled by the liquid hyposulphites. Pure water will fix the photograph, by washing out the nitrate of silver, but the tint of the picture resulting is brick-red; but the black colour may be restored, by washing it over with a weak solution of hyposulphite of ammonia. The author found that paper impregnated with the chloride of silver was only slightly susceptible to the influence of light; but an accidental observation led him to the discovery of other salts of silver, in which the acid, being more volatile, adheres to the base by a weak affinity, and which impart much greater sensibility to the paper on which they are applied—such as the carbonate, the nitrate, and the acetate. The nitrate requires to be perfectly neutral; for the least excess of acid lowers, in a remarkable degree, its susceptibility. In the application of photographic processes to the copying of engravings or drawings, many precautions, and minute attention to a number of apparently trivial, but really important circumstances, are required to insure success. In the first transfers, both light and shadow, as well as right and left, are the reverse of the original; and to operate a second transfer, or by a double inversion to reproduce the original effect, is a matter of infinitely greater difficulty, and in which the author has only recently ascertained the cause of former failures, and the remedy to be applied. It was during the prosecution of these experiments that the author was led to notice some remarkable facts relating to the action of the chemical rays. He ascertained the contrary to the prevailing opinion: the chemical action of light is by no means proportional to the quantity of violet rays transmitted, or even to the general tendency of the tint to the violet end of the spectrum; and his experiments lead to the conclusion, that, in the same manner as media have been ascertained to have relations *sui generis* to the calorific rays, not regulated by their relations to the rays of illumination and of colour, they have also specific relations to the chemical spectrum, different from those they bear to the other kinds of spectra. For the successful prosecution of this curious investigation, the first step must consist in the minute examination of the chemical actions of all the parts of a pure spectrum, not formed by material prisms, and he points out, for that purpose, one formed in Fraunhofer's method, by the interference of the rays of light themselves in passing through gratings, and fixed by the heliostat. He notices a curious phenomenon respecting the action of light on nitrated paper; namely, its great increase of intensity under a certain kind of glass strongly pressed in contact with it—an effect which cannot be explained either by the reflection of light, or the presence of moisture, but which may possibly be dependent on the evolution of heat. Twenty-three specimens of photographs made by Sir John Herschel accompany this paper; one a sketch of his telescope at Slough, fixed from its image in a lens, and the rest copies of engravings and drawings, some reverse, or first transfers, and others second transfers, or re-reversed pictures.

#### SOCIETY OF ANTIQUARIES.

It is impossible to give any such Report of the proceedings of this Society as would be satisfactory to ourselves or to the public. Last session one of the Fellows, a little ashamed of the figure the Society cut in the published reports, resolved, as he said, to do it justice in the *Athenæum*; but when, at the conclusion of a twelvemonth, he looked carefully over the results of his labours he was obliged to confess, that his zeal had been profitless. Here is a summary of the no-progress since our last. —Mr. Rosser has exhibited a brass stag, which he conceives to have been part of a candlestick, and two jugs, &c., from Etruria.—Mr. Doubleday a figure in terracotta, found in digging a sewer in Fenchurch Street.—Mr. Agnew a plan of, and copies of inscriptions

found on a catacomb in Alexandria.—Mr. Nichols a sacerdotal cope, of the time of King John, &c. A paper respecting Sir Edward Carew, has been in part read [whenever there is a paper of the slightest interest, the reader may confidently assume that it is only in part read and never concluded].—another 'On the position of the English and French armies at Cressy,' in part read—on a Convent, established in Paris during the Protectorate of Cromwell, in part read—and Mr. Croker communicated some particulars respecting an old ballad, 'On the Entrenchment of Ross,' now published together with a translation of the ballad itself in his 'Popular Songs.'

Seriously, we submit to those in authority, that if the Antiquarian Society is to retain its position in public opinion, they must, in these stirring times, do something to deserve it; and enable those who are willing to report their proceedings, to make that something manifest—and not, when they profess to read a paper of interest,

Like the story of the bear and fiddle,  
Begin, but break off in the middle.

#### GEOGRAPHICAL SOCIETY.

March 11.—G. B. Greenough, F.R.S. Vice-Pres. in the chair.

The Hon. and Rev. S. Best, Mr. Attwood, M.P., Mr. Vivian, M.P., and seven members were elected.

Extracts from the following paper were read:—

'Notice of a Journey in Palestine and the adjacent Regions in 1838; undertaken for the illustration of Biblical Geography, by the Rev. E. Robinson, D.D., Professor of Theology in New York, and the Rev. E. Smith, American Missionary at Beirut.' Drawn up by the former.

We left Cairo, says Dr. Robinson, on the 12th of March 1838, for Jerusalem, by way of Mount Sinai and 'Akabah. At Suez our attention was naturally directed to the circumstances connected with the passage of the Israelites through the Red Sea, which, most probably, must have taken place at or near Suez, perhaps a little below. To Sinai itself we came with some incredulity, wishing to investigate the point, whether there was any probable ground beyond monkish tradition, for fixing upon the present supposed site. We were surprised and gratified to find here, in the inmost recesses of those dark and lofty granite mountains, a fine plain spread out before the foot of Horeb, so called, at present,—a plain capable of containing two or three millions of people—from the south end of which the mountain rises perpendicularly, and overlooks the whole. The summit, now called Sinai, is about two miles farther south on the same ridge, but is not visible from below. With that summit Moses probably had nothing to do. From 'Akabah we ascended the western mountain to the height of 1,600 feet, and took the ancient Roman road in a nearly north direction, across the great western desert to Hebron and Jerusalem—a journey of eight days—through the "great and terrible wilderness." Of the general character of the whole region we traversed, we may judge from the fact that from the banks of the Nile, until we arrived at the borders of Palestine, we saw not a drop of running water nor a single blade of grass, except a few small tufts in two instances. This, however, was a season of dearth, scarcely any rain having fallen for two years. On this route we found and visited the ruins of the ancient Roman cities Eboda and Elusa, and also those of Beersheba, twenty-eight miles west-south-west of Hebron, still called Bîr Sebâ. Here are two wells of excellent water, over forty feet deep, and close by are the ruins of a large straggling village, corresponding to the description of Eusebius and Jerome. In Jerusalem itself, where we arrived April 14, we were surprised to find how much of antiquity remains which no traveller has mentioned, or apparently ever seen. The lower portions of the walls of the great area around the mosque of 'Omar, are unquestionably ancient, and must be referred at least to the time of Herod, if not to the days of Nehemiah or Solomon. The size, position, and character of the stones show this of themselves; but it is further demonstrated by the fact, that near the south-west corner there still remains in the wall the foot of an immense arch, which evidently once belonged to the bridge that anciently led from the Temple to the Xystus on Mount Zion. The ancient tower, also, in the castle near the Yaffa gate, corre-

sponds entirely to Josephus's description of the tower of Hippicus, which Titus left standing as a memento. We were likewise able to trace to a considerable distance the ancient wall north-west and north of the present city. The pool of Siloam, at the mouth of the Tyropæum, where it opens into the valley of Jehosaphat, is doubtless the Siloam of Josephus and the New Testament; and the well of Nehemiah, farther down, is the En Rogel of Scripture, where the border of Judah and Benjamin passed up the Valley of Hinnore. We found, further, that there is a fountain of living water deep beneath the mosque of 'Omar, which is doubtless ancient; the water has just the taste of that of Siloam, in the valley below, and a connexion between them may be conjectured. We remained nearly four weeks at Jerusalem, and then made several excursions from that city to different parts of the country. As a matter of principle, we directed our researches chiefly to those parts of the country which had not been explored by former travellers, and sought to obtain information, as far as possible, not from the legends of monks and other foreigners, but chiefly from the native Arabs of the land. For this latter object the accurate and familiar knowledge which my companion had of the Arabic language was of inestimable value. Our first excursion occupied two days, and was directed to the north-east and north of Jerusalem, through the region alluded to in Isaiah, x. 28. *et seq.* Here are still found the villages of Anathoth, Gibeah, Ramah, and Michmash, all bearing Arabic names corresponding to those of the Hebrew. We saw also the probable site of Ai, and the rock Rimmon, a sharp conical hill, now called Rummon. The ruins of Bethel, now Beit-in, lie forty minutes north-east of Bîreh, and are of considerable extent. We returned to Jerusalem by way of Jib (Gibeon) and the lofty site of Nebi Samwil. This is commonly assumed to be the city of the Prophet Samuel, where he was born and buried, but there are insuperable objections to this hypothesis, and we were led to consider it as the probable site of ancient Mizpeh. The second excursion, of eight days, led us to the south-east of Jerusalem, the western shore of the Dead Sea, and the Jordan. We ascended the Frank mountain—visited the ruins of Tekoa, Ziph, Carmel, and Maon—and thence directed our course to 'Ain Jiddi (Engeddi), on the shore of the Dead Sea. Here we came out upon the cliffs which overhang the deep chasm of the sea, 1,500 feet above its waters. An exceedingly steep and difficult pass leads down to the shore, below the fine gushing fountain which gives name to the place. The spot was full of trees and plants belonging to a more southern clime, and the air was vocal with the carols of feathered songsters. We bathed in the heavy waters of the sea, and spent the night in this romantic spot. The full moon rose in splendour over the eastern mountains, and poured down a flood of silvery light upon the bosom of the deep dark gulf. The next morning we were compelled to re-ascend the pass, in order to pursue our journey northwards—the projecting cliffs cutting off all passage along the water below. We continued our course parallel with the shore, and descended again into the plains of Jericho, or the valley of the Jordan. From Jericho we passed to the Fountain of Elisha, and then ascended along the ancient road from Jericho and Gilgal to Bethel—a way so often travelled by the Jewish kings and prophets, and particularly by Elijah and Elisha. From Bethel we returned to Jerusalem. The plague had broken out in the Holy City soon after our first arrival, and we now found it slowly but constantly increasing, and the city was soon to be shut up, in order to prevent the pestilence from spreading into the country. We remained therefore but a day in Jerusalem, and then set off on our third excursion to Gaza, Hebron, and Wâdi Mûsa. We took the direct ancient route to Gaza, across the mountains, and succeeded on the way in discovering the site of the long-lost Eleutheropolis. This we were enabled to do in consequence of finding a number of places, in respect to which Eusebius and Jerome have specified their distances from that city. Following out these distances, from different quarters, they all centered in a spot now called Beit Jibrin, the ancient Betogabris, where are the remains of a very strong Roman fortress, and traces of an extensive city. These circumstances establish the identity of Eleutheropolis and Betogabris; the latter being the an-

cient name, and the former a later one; as was the case with so many other cities of that region. From Gaza we went up to Hebron, and there taking camels, proceeded to Wâdi Mûsa, by way of the south end of the Dead Sea, and along the great Wâdi El 'Arabah. We found this region to correspond entirely with the account of Irby and Mangles, and of Legh. The long mountain ridge of rock salt, the back water, and the range of cliffs running across the great Wâdi eight or ten miles south of the sea, were all easy to be recognized. These cliffs, however, consist of marl, and are merely an offset between the low valley near the sea, and the higher level of the valley farther south. The name Ghor is applied to the lower or northern part, while all farther south takes the name El 'Arabah. The great water-course, or bed of El 'Arabah, is called Wâdi Jib, a Wâdi within a Wâdi. It drains off all the waters of El 'Arabah and the adjacent deserts on the east and west, and carries them northward into the Dead Sea. Where it comes down through the above-mentioned cliffs, it is half a mile broad, with precipitous banks 150 feet high, and exhibits the marks of an immense volume of water. It begins far to the south of Mount Hor, between Wâdi Gharandel and 'Akabah. We approached Wâdi Mûsa, or Petra, by its magnificent eastern entrance, and, after a survey of its monuments, were preparing to depart, when the old Sheikh, Abû Zeitûn, the former foe of Mr. Banks and his party, came down upon us with thirty armed men, demanding a tribute of 1,000 piastres for visiting his territory. We declined payment of course; and contrived, with some address, to extricate ourselves from his clutches without harm or hindrance. We now returned to Hebron by a different route, stopping for a time at the fountain El Weibeh, on the west side of El 'Arabah, at the foot of the mountains. Here, or in this vicinity, we are disposed to place the site of ancient Kadesh; at least, the nature of the adjacent country decides the point, that this city must have been situated in the great valley. From Hebron we proceeded west to Dûrah, the Adora of Josephus, and Adoraim of Scripture, and thence descended the mountains, and continued our course northward to Bethshemesh, where are still traces of an extensive city. From this place, I may almost say, we followed the track of the cart on which the Philistines sent back the ark, and came thus on a north-west course to Akir, the long-lost Ekron, a large village, two hours south of Ramleh. We now returned to Jerusalem, over Lydda, Lower and Upper Bethoron, and Gibeon. The pass between the two villages of Bethoron is an ancient road, very steep and long, not a hollow way, but leading up the point of a ridge between two deep valleys. Near the lower village is the valley and village of Yalo, or Ajalon, corresponding entirely to the circumstances under which Joshua commanded the sun and moon to stand still. We did not enter Jerusalem, which was still shut up, on account of the plague, but pitched our tent in the olive-grove before the Damascus gate. Our subsequent journey northwards, led us over Jifneh, the Gophna of Josephus; Shiloh, which we were the first to visit; Nablûs, where we ascended Mount Gerizim; Samaria, Nazareth, Mount Tabor, where we passed a day and night; Tiberias, Safet, Tyre, and Sidon, to Beirut, where we arrived June 26th.

Mr. Charles Sumner, of Boston, in acknowledging a vote of thanks to his countryman for his interesting communication, said that Prof. Robinson was one of the first theological scholars of the United States, that he was well known as the author of an excellent Greek Lexicon, and as editor of the Biblical Repository; and that he understood it was the Professor's intention to publish his travels in Palestine, accompanied by a new map of the Holy Land, in the course of the summer.

Mr. Gowland exhibited and gave a description of a model of an improvement in Chronometers, which would enable the traveller to carry these delicate instruments with as little risk of injury on a land journey, as had hitherto been the case by sea—a great desideratum for the advancement of geographical knowledge.

Among the donations was a portrait of Weddell, the Antarctic navigator, painted by Mr. Frederick Penke, of Dover, and presented to the Society by Mr. John Brown. In a conversation which this sub-

ject gave rise to government action, in the British magazine, southern discovery in

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ject gave rise to, it was announced that Her Majesty's government had decided upon fitting out an expedition, in the course of this spring, in order to establish magnetic observatories at certain stations in the southern hemisphere, and to prosecute geographical discovery in the Antarctic seas.

## ASIATIC SOCIETY.

Mar. 2.—Professor Wilson, in the chair.

R. Harding, Esq., was elected a Resident Member. The Secretary read a paper, by Dr. Lhotzky, relative to the discovery of an ancient town in Ascensis, one of the Caroline Islands, in 11° N. lat. He observed, that he had before printed an account of this discovery at Sydney; but he had reason to suppose that no copy of the pamphlet had reached this country. The island had been recently discovered by H.M.S. *Raven*. Some time after the discovery, a gentleman proceeded thither, and resided there several months—with what object it does not appear. This gentleman reports, that at a place on the island called Tamen, the ruins of an extensive town are visible, now accessible only to boats, the water coming up to the steps of the houses. The stones are laid artificially, but without cement; and some of them are twenty feet in length. They appear, from description, to be of the well-known Cyclopean structure. The walls have doors and windows, and they are built of a stone that appeared to the reporter unlike that of the neighbourhood. The habits of the people of the island are different from those of the other South Sea Islands. The social system there appears to be more developed—the women are upon a more equal footing with the men—and many of their customs are more like those of Europeans than have been observed elsewhere in the Pacific. They attribute the founding of these ruins to persons departed; but whether of their own or a different race it does not appear. Dr. Lhotzky, since his arrival in England, has received a letter from Sydney, by which he learns, that Ascensis has again been visited by the captain of a whaler, who is on his way to this country with a number of maps and sketches, and who is said to report that the islands about that part of the ocean are covered with ruins.

We may express a hope that more positive notices of these discoveries will ere long reach England, until which it is idle to indulge in any theories on the subject. A few sketches, taken on the spot, will be of more moment in leading to a comparison with the structures of other nations, than a thousand conjectures; and the paper now read leads us to expect that these will soon be brought within our reach.

A paper by Mr. F. C. Browne was next read.—Adverting to the recent success in the cultivation of tea in Upper Assam, Mr. Browne stated that he had seen the tea plant flourishing in the district of Wynaad, on the western ghats of the peninsula of India. In February 1834, the late Colonel Crewe, who commanded in the Neilgherries, gave two, out of six plants which had been sent him from China, to Captain F. Minchin, who resided with his family for some time at Manantoddy, the chief place in the Wynaad district. Here, the two plants, though the smallest, and unhealthy, in a week or two began to improve; and during the rains (or in June, July, August, and September), fresh shoots were produced, and they became most healthy plants. Next year they became fine and bushy, and came out in full bloom in June 1835, on the setting in of the rains. The tea plant completely failed in the Neilgherries. Mr. Browne further states, that Captain Evans took a cutting from one of the original plants, and that it thrived equally well at Manantoddy; and he hence infers the suitability of the soil and climate of the Wynaad district for the cultivation of tea, as well as a great portion of the tract of country in south-western India ceded by Tipoo Sultan, having as fertile a soil, about the same elevation, and enjoying a similar climate, with the same medium temperature.

A letter was read from Mr. G. Prinsep, announcing the arrival, in Calcutta, of the cochineal insect, and the true cactus plant, which had been sent out last year, in charge of Mr. H. Burchard, to whom the Agricultural Society of India had voted a silver medal.

Dr. Royle then read a paper respecting *Valeria Indica*, or the varnish and vegetable tallow tree of the

Malabar and Canara coasts. This tree has been figured and described by Rheede, and is found in the Wynaad and Bednore districts. Mr. S. Dyer stated, in a letter to Dr. Royle, that he knew it grew abundantly, both in the interior and along the coasts. It was called the Piney or Dammar tree, and attains a great size, with wood of excellent quality. Its varnish is used on the coast in a liquid state, but, when dry, is known, in commerce, as Copal and Anime. The tallow is obtained by boiling the seeds in water, when the fatty matter floats at the surface, and becomes solid. An account of this substance was given, by Dr. Babington, in the *Journal of the Royal Institution* for 1825, which mentions that it sold, at Mangalore, at 2½d. per pound. Dr. Royle stated that he had long been desirous of having the vegetable oils of India examined, as they were both abundant there, and in great demand here. Castor oil, and cocoa-nut oil, had, for some time, been extensive articles of commerce: linseed and rapeseed had lately become so; but there were many others equally suitable—as was evident by the analyses made by Mr. E. Solly—besides some solid fatty substances, like this vegetable tallow, which would be desirable, both for medicinal use, as well as substitutes for animal tallow. This, however, had also been brought from India in January 1838, and sold for 4½d. 6d. per cwt.—approaching the price given for good Russia tallow. Dr. Royle read a letter from Mr. S. Dyer, of the Madras Medical Service, who had long resided at Tellicherry, and was well acquainted with the piney varnish tree, which, he states, will grow readily, even when the branches are put into the ground; and many of the trees were planted, on the road side, in Malabar, about twenty years ago, a period more than is required to bring them to perfection.

Mr. E. Solly then read a short account of the Chemical Properties of the Vegetable Tallow of the Piney Tree. He described it as being, in its most important characters, something between wax and tallow, and well adapted, by its properties, as a substitute for animal tallow, both in the manufacture of candles, and likewise for many other purposes to which that substance is at present exclusively applied. One great advantage which the piney tallow possessed over common tallow, consisted in the absence of any disagreeable smell, either at common temperature, or when burning, and, consequently, when candles made of it were extinguished, they did not emit the highly offensive smell which is always perceived with candles made of animal tallow. In confirmation of its applicability to candle-making, he stated, that Dr. Babington had placed a portion of it in the hands of a practical candle-maker, who had given a most satisfactory report, he having succeeded in making good candles of it, which came freely from the mould. Mr. Solly thought, that if it could be obtained at such a price as to admit of its being imported as a substitute for tallow, its important and valuable properties would soon secure a market for it.

## GEOLOGICAL SOCIETY.

March 13.—Rev. Dr. Buckland, President, in the chair.—A paper was read, 'On the Geology of the North-western part of Asia Minor, from the Peninsula of Cyzicus on the Coast of the Sea of Marmora to Koola, with a description of the Katakekaumene,' by W. J. Hamilton, Esq., Sec. G.S.

The line of route taken by Mr. Hamilton from Cyzicus (lat. 40° 22') ascends the valley of the river Macetus to its sources, near Simaul, then crosses the Demirgi chain (lat. 39° 5'), and afterwards passes by Karskeui and Selendi to Koola, on the eastern confines of the Katakekaumene; the whole of the distance being about 170 miles. The principal physical feature of the district is the Demirgi range, which extends from Pergamon on the west to the lofty mountain of Ak Dagħ or Shapkan Dagħ on the east, but the country is intersected by various ranges of hills, sometimes exceeding 1200 feet in height. The geological structure of Mr. Hamilton's line of route is simple, being composed of only schistose rocks, with saccharine marble, a compact limestone, resembling the scaglia of Italy and Greece, tertiary sandstones and limestones, granite, peperite, trachyte, basalt, and other igneous rocks. Between Kespiet and the foot of the Demirgi hills, are also remains of an ancient lacustrine deposit, and in the valleys are extensive alluvial accumulations. The schists consist of

mica-slate, gneiss, and clay-slate, and they occur chiefly near Cyzicus. The strata dip at high angles from the granite, to the protrusion of which the inclination is apparently due. The marble was formerly worked to a very great extent, and Cyzicus was indebted to it for being ranked among the most splendid cities of antiquity. The compact limestone, resembling scaglia, was observed only at the foot of the hills north of Maniyas. It is associated with beds of shale, and is apparently destitute of organic remains. The micaceous sandstone is extensively distributed south of Maniyas, also towards the eastern extremity of the Demirgi mountains at the point crossed by Mr. Hamilton, and between it and Koola. The stone is fissile, and alternates sometimes with shale; and the beds are, occasionally, much dislocated by the protrusion of igneous rocks. About half-way between the pass over the Demirgi range and Koola, the upper beds of the sandstone alternate with the lower layers of an overlying deposit of peperite. Mr. Hamilton has no doubt that this formation belongs to the one which himself and Mr. Strickland examined between Ghiediz and Ushah. The white tertiary limestone, Mr. Hamilton considers to be a part of the great lacustrine formation, which occupies so large a portion of Asia Minor; but within the range of country described in this memoir, it appears to be totally devoid of organic remains. It is sometimes soft, resembling chalk, but, at its contact with the igneous rocks, it becomes hard, and at one line of junction, a layer of serpentine was interposed between the two formations. Thin beds of white opaque flints, resembling those of the lacustrine limestone of Auvergne, were noticed by the author a little south of Kefsut. The strata have been, in many places, very much dislocated by the protrusion of trachyte. The granite was observed only near Cyzicus and in the Demirgi chain. It is composed of quartz, felspar, and mica, but it contains large masses of hornblende, and is traversed by veins of felspar. The schistose rocks are thrown off by it near Cyzicus at high angles, and with a quiquaversal inclination. The peperite, or volcanic tuff, appears to be of intermediate age between the micaceous sandstone and the white limestone, as it rests upon the former, and is overlaid by the latter. It is distinctly stratified, and varies much in character, being sometimes earthy, occasionally conglomeratic, and not unfrequently hard or semicrystalline. It is chiefly developed south of the Demirgi range. The beds are generally horizontal, or slightly inclined, but they are disturbed where igneous rocks have been protruded through them. Trachyte and basalt rise to the surface at many places between the Demirgi hills and Koola, dislocating the stratified deposits, and producing changes both in their structure and hardness. On the banks of the Hermus, basalt overlies the white limestone. Mr. Hamilton also described the hot springs, situated about seven miles to the east of Singeri at the northern foot of the Demirgi chain. Their temperature, he conceives to be equal to that of boiling water, and they are discernible, at a considerable distance, by the great volumes of steam which they throw off. Extensive accumulations, several feet thick, of a white fibrous sediment, occur around the mouth of the springs. A strong sulphurous smell accompanies the emission of the water; but, at a point where the stream had lost enough of its temperature to be tasted, no peculiar flavour was perceived. After turning several miles, and at the distance of a mile and a half from the spring head, the water is collected and used by the Turks as a warm bath. Copious hot springs are likewise thrown out near the Katakekaumene: the water is tasteless, and the temperature 123° of Fahrenheit, but no sediment is deposited around the mouths. Mr. Hamilton then proceeded to describe the Katakekaumene,—a district singularly interesting, on account of its extinct volcanoes, and its great resemblance to Auvergne. He first visited it in company with Mr. Strickland, who laid an account of some portions of it before the Geological Society, in 1836 (see *Athenæum*, No. 471). The district extends from Koola, westward, about nineteen miles, and for about eight miles from north to south. The formations included within this area, are the schistose rocks, and crystalline limestone, which occur near Cyzicus, the white lacustrine limestone, basalt, and lavas of two perfectly distinct ages. The leading physical features of the district are ridges of schistose rocks, with intervening alluvial plains. On

the former are seated all the ancient volcanic cones, or craters, and in the latter the modern. This important distinction, Mr. Hamilton is of opinion, may be explained, on the supposition that the elevation of the schistose ridges produced fissures, through which, as lines of least resistance, the first eruptions of lava found vent. That these openings becoming, afterwards, plugged up, by the cooling of injected molten matter, the schistose ridges were rendered so compact, that, when the volcanic forces again became active, the line of least resistance was transferred to the valleys. Of the relative periods when the eruptions took place, no opinion can be formed: the more modern must have been long anterior to tradition, though the streams of lava present all the ruggedness of the most recent *coulées* of Etna and Vesuvius; and the craters preserve, to a great extent, their form and internal cavities. The more ancient lava-currents are covered by sedimentary matter, and are, therefore, considered, by Mr. Hamilton, to have been, at one period, covered with water: the cones have also lost, in part, their form, the craters being nearly obliterated. The paper concluded with a comparison between this part of Asia Minor and Auvergne, as described by Mr. Scrope. 1. The great ancient volcanic group of Mont Dore, the Cantal and Mont Mezen, Mr. Hamilton conceives, is represented by Ak Dagh, Morad Dagh, the trachytic hills east of Takmak, Hassan Dagh, and Mont Argeus. 2. That the more modern volcanic period of central France may be compared with the Katakekaumene, both as respects the composition of the lavas, their arrangement at different levels, and the cones being scattered, not collected in great mountain masses. 3. With respect to the disposition of comparatively recent volcanoes being coincident with the strike of the granitic axes, from the interior of which they have burst forth, Mr. Hamilton stated, that the Katakekaumene affords additional illustration. 4. In central France, as well as the district described in this paper, there are deposits of lacustrine limestone, which have been separated, by the action of bodies of water, into table lands surmounted by beds of basalt and lava; and, in both countries, currents of lava, of more modern date, have flowed into the intervening valleys. In two points, however, there are differences between the volcanic phenomena of Asia Minor and central France. In the latter, streams of igneous products may be traced from the most ancient system of cones, or that of Mont Dore; but, in the former, none have yet been discovered which issued from Ak Dagh, or the other contemporaneous volcanic mountains. In France, also, trachytic eruptions took place during the deposition of the lacustrine limestone; but, in the Katakekaumene, they appear to have preceded the deposition of the white limestone, or are associated with only its lowest beds.

#### INSTITUTION OF CIVIL ENGINEERS.

Feb. 26.—The President in the chair.

The following gentlemen were elected:—G. Grove, J. B. Rodman, as Graduates; S. M. Peto, J. Grissell, and Rev. S. King, as Associates.

“On the Economy produced by working steam in large steam engines expansively,” by John Watt.

The author details the result of some experiments on a high pressure engine used for blowing furnaces. The steam cylinder was 38 inches in diameter, the blowing cylinder 122 inches, length of stroke 9 feet, pressure on the piston 41 lb. and in the boiler 45 lb. per square inch. The number of strokes about 12 per minute, and pillar of blast 2½ lb. A large fly-wheel was attached. On fitting the engine with expansive apparatus and cutting off at half stroke, the performance was greater than at any previous time, with a saving of 25 per cent. of fuel. The author refers this to the fact, that all the moving parts, with the exception of the fly-wheel, are brought to a state of rest at the conclusion of each stroke; and that if the steam be allowed to enter throughout the whole stroke, the piston will have to draw from the fly-wheel momentum sufficient to overcome its own momentum and to alter the direction of its reciprocating parts; but the steam being cut off, so that the momentum be destroyed by the time the piston terminates its stroke, the return stroke will be commenced without checking the unnecessary impetus which exists when the steam is admitted to the end of the stroke. Thus it is observed that engines work-

ing expansively pass the centres more easily than when working full pressure throughout the stroke. The momentum which has to be destroyed, is created at the expenditure of more than half a cylinder full of steam; and the checking of this motion is also accompanied by a still further waste of steam. In this paper the author attributes part of the good results of the Cornish engines to the momentum of the column of water, but it was stated that the quantity of water is small, and the mass of pump-rods immense, in the Cornish engines; this mass of matter is put in motion by a violent jerk; the proportion of weight of the pump-rods to that of the water being about 150 to 37 tons: that one cause of the economy of working expansively was, the boiler room not being sufficient when the engine works at full, there being an immense superiority in the working of an engine which has abundance of boiler power, and in the working of one where it is deficient.

March 5.—The President in the chair.

The following gentlemen were elected:—Thomas Chalmers, Andrew Burn, as Graduates; John William Lubbock as an Honorary Member.

“On the Comparison between the power of Locomotive Engines, and the effect produced by that power at different velocities,” from Prof. Barlow.

In this paper, the writer did not attempt to explain an exact method for computing the power of locomotive engines, but only one tolerably approximate, because he considers that the absolute power of engines is not so much required as the comparative power under different conditions. The method he pursued is this: “If we know experimentally the number of cubic feet of water evaporated in any given time by an engine, the space passed over in that time, the length of stroke, and the capacity of cylinder, we hence know how many cubic feet of steam have been employed, and consequently the mean number of cubic feet of steam produced from one cubic foot of water; hence again, by experiments that have been made by different writers upon the power of steam, we know the pressure per inch on the piston; and then, making due allowance for the resistance of the atmosphere on the piston, the friction of engine-gear, &c., we have left the force that ought to be effective, and this being reduced to the circumference of the wheel, should be equal to the resistance opposed by the load, which on a level plane consists of axle friction, road resistance, and the resistance of the atmosphere to the engine and carriages. But this is assuming that the engine has a perfect action without any waste, which certainly is seldom the case, though very much to be desired.” The author then goes on to select some experiments from those made on the North Star and Harvey Coombe engines, as reported by Mr. Woods to the Directors of the Great Western Railway. He also gives such columns from Mr. Woods’ tables as are requisite, together with additional columns resulting from the computations above indicated. And from the first of these experiments it is proved, that the steam power expended per ton of the gross load, amounts to 32 lb., whereas on a level line like the present, it is generally assumed that the retardation of such a load does not amount to more than 9 lb. per ton, so that there appears to have been a power expended more than three times greater than the mechanical resistance to which it was opposed, according to views hitherto taken on the subject. The author then proceeded to speak of the resistance of railway trains at different speeds, and concluded his paper with a few observations on the effect of gradients.

“Description of a machine called a Floating Clough,” from G. Ellis.

This machine was used for scouring a channel which leads from the Winstead Drainage, and Haven of Patrington, into the river Humber. It was constructed in the following manner. The frame is made of timber six inches by four, twelve feet long, nine wide, and six deep. This frame is covered with plank two inches thick, and through the middle of it a culvert is formed with planks two feet six inches in width, with a small lifting door at one end. Connected with the bottom, and projecting in front, are two long beams called feelers, which keep the machine in its course; at the bottom in the front, are frames of wood shod with rough iron, like the teeth of a saw, and these are connected with racks which

can be raised by a lever. At each side of the machine there is a wing which is made to fit the slope of the banks, to dress the mud from the sides, and to keep the water up behind the machine. At high tide the machine is moored in the middle of the channel, the wings are extended, and kept so by ropes, and when the tide is at half ebb the plugs are taken out, and the water rises about two feet in the machine, which causes it to sink; the plugs are then replaced, and thus it remains till full ebb, when the iron-shod frames are let down in front, and the tide forces the whole machine, which is like a great dam, gently down the stream, scraping with it all the mud down to the river, where it is emptied, and floated back with the return tide; the whole distance, about three miles, is performed in two hours.

March 12.—The President in the chair.

The following gentlemen were elected: Philip Benjamin Scott as a Graduate; Thomas Cubitt, Samuel Enys, Robert Mallett, as Associates.

A paper was read from Mr. Josiah Richards, describing the Drawing of a Puddling Forge and Mills erected by him for the Rhymney Iron Company.

The author detailed everything necessary for the converting refined metal into malleable finished iron, and described the various processes gone through for the making of railway bars.

#### STATISTICAL SOCIETY.

March 15.—The Anniversary Meeting took place this day, Earl Fitzwilliam in the chair.

The Report of the Council was first read: it expressed the gratification of the Council at the general feeling now manifest in favour of statistical studies, as shown in the widely extended and increased correspondence of the Society at home and abroad, and the large accession of members. It then adverted to the principal inquiries which had occupied the attention of the Council and the Committees during the past year: to the investigations which have been carried on, of the number, nature, and condition of the schools in several extensive districts of the metropolis: to the reports already published on the subject, and to others in progress. The Committee on Vital Statistics are still engaged in collecting data from which may be deduced the laws that govern the rate of human mortality. With regard to a collection of the experience of the numerous Insurance Societies, it was stated that the circulation of the Committee’s Forms among the several offices had had the effect of inducing a Committee of Actuaries to renew the prosecution of a previously contemplated plan for collecting the desired information. Such a committee obviously possesses peculiar facilities for the task, and as the Council had received the strongest assurance that the Actuaries had the same object in view as the Society, to which they promised to communicate the result of their labours, the proposed inquiry had been abandoned. But the Council had received some valuable returns from various medical establishments in reference to this subject, and the forms of registry suggested by the Council had been adopted in important public institutions, a circumstance tending to produce a systematic completeness, and uniformity in future results. There has also been drawn up, under the direction of the Council, some suggestions for the attainment of greater perfection in the mode of effecting the next census of population of the kingdom in 1841. The Medical Committee have also prepared a tabular form for the record of coroners’ inquests, which has been transmitted to the Secretary of State, with such a representation as there is reason to hope will lead to its adoption in the bill for regulating the office of coroner, which is about to be brought before Parliament. Since the last annual meeting some additional returns have been received to the printed questions relating to strikes among the working classes. A committee has also been appointed to inquire into the condition of the working classes in the parishes of Westminster. Reference was then made to the *Statistical Journal*, and the Report concluded by earnestly calling on the members of the Society zealously to co-operate in promoting the useful objects for which they are associated.

It appeared from the Auditors’ Report, that during

† A similar machine was described in the second volume of the *Transactions of the Civil Engineers*, p. 181, but applicable to a navigable river.

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Bourne, John

Esq., M.D.,

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the past year the receipts had been more than usually large—that the sum invested in stock exceeds by 37l. the amount of composition paid since the commencement of the Society—and that the number of members at present on the Society's books is 429, of whom 18 are For. Hon. and 7 For. Cor. Members.

The following gentlemen were elected for the ensuing year:—

President, The Right Hon. Earl Fitzwilliam—*Treasurer*, Henry Hallam, Esq.—*Honorary Secretaries*, James Heywood, Esq., Charles Hope Maclean, Esq., Rawson W. Rawson, Esq.—*Council*, Sir John Boileau, Bart., Right Hon. Sturges Bourne, John Bowring, Esq., L.L.D., John Clendinning, Esq., M.D., Rev. E. Wyatt Edgell, T. R. Edmonds, Esq., Right Hon. Earl Fitzwilliam, Francis Goldsmid, Esq., Woronzow Greig, Esq., Henry Hallam, Esq., James Heywood, Esq., James Kay, Esq., M.D., Charles Knight, Esq., The Marquess of Lansdowne, Sir Charles Lemon, Bart., M.P., Nathaniel Lister, Esq., M.D., Rt. Hon. Holt Mackenzie, C. Hope Maclean, Esq., Herman Merivale, Esq., The Lord Bishop of Norwich, W. Smith O'Brien, Esq., M.P., G. R. Porter, Esq., C. W. Puller, Esq., Rawson W. Rawson, Esq., Edward Romilly, Esq., Lord Viscount Sandon, M.P., Colonel Sykes, Thomas Tooke, Esq., Captain Tulloch, David Urquhart, Esq., George W. Wood, Esq., M.P.

#### INSTITUTE OF BRITISH ARCHITECTS.

March 4.—P. F. Robinson, V.P., in the chair.—Mr. George Ward was elected an Associate.

The Report of the Council respecting the adjudication of the medals for the prize essays having been read, and the recommendations approved, that the medals of merit be awarded to two of the authors of the papers on the peculiar characteristics of Greek and Roman architecture, the letters bearing the mottoes of the successful candidates were opened, when the authors appeared to be as follows: W. W. Pocock, Associate; Edward Hall, of Manchester.

A paper was read 'On a Double Entrance Gateway to the City of Pæstum, with a restoration, and remarks illustrative of the military architecture of the Greeks,' by T. L. Donaldson, Hon. Sec.

March 18.—P. F. Robinson, V.P., in the chair. Sampson Kempthorne was transferred from the class of Associates, to that of Fellows.

Mr. G. F. Richardson delivered the first of a series of six lectures on Geology.

#### ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY.

March 8.—Sir John Herschel, Bart., President, in the chair.—A paper was read 'On the Comparative Merit of the method of Determining the Longitude by means of Moon-culminating Stars,' by Mr. Epps, late Assistant Secretary to the Society. The author, in this paper, points out the advantages of the method here alluded to, which is now very generally adopted; and, at the same time, states the amount of error that may occasionally arise, unless due attention be paid to all the circumstances of each case. Another paper was commenced, 'On the true Positions of Lacaille's Stations at the Cape of Good Hope,' by Mr. Maclear; but as this paper will not be concluded till the next meeting, we shall defer our notice of it at present. After the meeting, Sir John Herschel exhibited some splendid sketches of the appearance of Halley's comet, which he had recently received from M. Struve, of Dorpat.

BOTANICAL SOCIETY.—March 15.—J. E. Gray, Esq., F.R.S. Pres., in the chair.—A paper was commenced, communicated by E. Lees, Esq., F.L.S., 'On the species of *Tilia* natives of England, with notices of some remarkable aged individual trees.' The author considered that the lime tree was indigenous to Worcestershire, the borders of Herefordshire, Gloucestershire, Monmouthshire, and South Wales. At Hamford, four miles north of Worcester, on the banks of the Severn, about the western base of the Barrow Hill near Martley, on Ankenside Hill, near Knightsford bridge, on the Teme, as well as among the rocky glens about Pont Nedd Vechan, Glamorgan-shire, many very remarkable old limes occur, in spots evidently under the wild keeping of nature. Many other localities were also given, where the author considered those trees as certainly wild. The paper was accompanied by six drawings of remarkable old trees observed by Mr. Lees.

#### MEETINGS FOR THE ENSUING WEEK.

Mon.	Geographical Society .....	Nine, P.M.
	Archæological Society .....	Eight.
Tues.	Institution of Civil Engineers .....	Eight.
	Zoological Society ( <i>Sci. Bus.</i> ) .....	8 p. Eight.
	Geological Society .....	8 p. Eight.
Wed.	Archæological Society ( <i>Quar. Meet.</i> ) .....	Eight.
	Society of Arts .....	8 p. Seven.
Thurs.	Numismatic Society .....	Seven.

#### MUSIC AND THE DRAMA

##### DRURY LANE.

This Evening, FARINELLI; THE LIONS; and THE LITTLE HUNCHBACK, (for the Benefit of Mr. Van Amburgh).

##### COVENT GARDEN.

This Evening, RICHELIEU; and FRA DIAVOLO. On Easter Monday, RICHELIEU; with a GRAND DRAMATIC ROMANCE.

PHILHARMONIC CONCERTS.—If we could have reversed the positions of Beethoven's Sinfonia A, and Haydn's letter T (with its charmingly fresh slow movement and minuet), we know not how the instrumental scheme of the second concert could have been improved. The orchestra, led by Mr. Loder, and conducted by Mr. Potter, was in good order, and wanting little besides the crowded audience of former years to stimulate it with applause. The *solos* were peculiarly interesting. In the first act, Mr. Moscheles played his new 'Concerto Pastorale.' This is a composition in the same poetical vein as the 'Characteristic Studies,' but into the plan of which, as in their case, no literal imitation has entered. Besides being kept alive by a constant flow of beautiful and pastoral melody, there is novelty in the forms of this concerto—an *andante* in 3, and an *allegretto* in 2, frame, as it were, an *adagio*, which melts back into movements of the same character and tempo—so that the work happily ends in the very mood in which it began. The orchestra, too, is employed with a master's skill, so as at once to set off and to support the pianist. In the second act, Herr David, from Leipsic, performed a violin concerto of his own composition. Both his composition and his performance were excellent—the former from its novelty, the latter from its total avoidance of those affectations, by the adoption of which so many recent violinists would seem to have mistaken the *strange* for the beautiful, and the peculiarities of Paganini for the principles of art. The slow movement was most elegant and expressive—the *rondo* bright, piquant, and heightened by a happy but always natural quaintness of orchestral arrangement. Herr David, as a player, possesses that highest requisite for producing effect—namely, composure; the same spell by which Pasta worked so many of her miracles. With him, nothing is hurried—nothing is tormented—nothing exaggerated—fluent and brilliant execution is not allowed to 'cast its shadow before' when he is delivering a simple phrase of melody; yet, though calm, he is anything but cold. We are disposed to insist upon this peculiar excellence, a sure sign of high musical attainment, because of its rarity, and because its unobtrusiveness has made many an instrumentalist overlook its cardinal importance. We are glad that so excellent a performance should be so thoroughly relished, as was the case on Monday. Room only remains for us to specify that the overtures were Weber's exciting 'Ruler of the Spirits,' and Spohr's narcotic 'Der Alchymist,' and that the singers were Miss Masson, Mr. Bennett, and Miss Rainforth, who, in her execution of the arduous *scena* 'Si lo sento,' by Spohr, once more showed those better powers of voice and feeling, over the eclipse of which we grieved when we had last occasion to mention her performance.

QUARTETT CONCERTS.—So excellent was both the selection and its performance, at the concert on Thursday evening, that we are disposed to murmur at its being the last of its series. After Easter, the more tawdry, more showy Benefit Concerts, will 'set in with their usual severity.' Between them, and such an evening's music as Mr. Blagrove catered for us, what a difference in rational pleasure and solid value! We would fifty times rather hear the quartett by Fesca in c minor, with which the concert commenced, and which, though not especially interesting, was new music to us, than the hundredth repetition of the most brilliant opera song executed by the best of the Italian choir, or than the most amazing of the *wonder-fantasias* (to coin a word after the German fashion) for a single instrument, in which all that is novel is forced and impracticable. The Fesca quartett was capitally played; so, too, was Beethoven's quartett in D, Op. 18—one of his works with which the public is least familiar. Next year we hope to hear his trios for stringed instruments: and, while asking for these once again, we will even run the risk of tedious iteration, and

ask for some of Spohr's violin duetts. Mr. J. L. Hatton took the pianoforte part of a quartett by Mozart in E flat: this, save the slow movement, is in its composer's thinner and more obsolete manner; and the pianist was coarsely emphatic where every grace of a gentle and subtle expression is required to give colour to much that is colourless, and elegance to what is antiquated. Mr. Hatton promised better things, some years ago, than he fulfilled in his noisy, though neat performance on Thursday. His accompaniment to the vocal music, too, was laboured and harsh;—we missed M. Benedict. The last instrumental piece of the evening was Mendelssohn's quintett in A major: its writer never imagined anything more exquisitely fanciful and characteristic than the *scherzo*—our *beau ideal* of quaint and busy playfulness. The other movements are admirable in construction, and fresher in melody than some of Mendelssohn's later works; but the *scherzo* is the gem of the piece,—and well might it detain a very full and breathlessly attentive audience, who demanded it, unanimously, a second time. Miss F. Wyndham and Mr. Balfe took the vocal parts of the concert:—the good judgment and excellent vocalization of the latter are never more evident than at these chamber entertainments, where it is unnecessary for him to strain a not very strong voice.

HAYMARKET.—Knowles's delightful comedy 'The Love Chase,' whose genial humour causes its defective construction to be overlooked, was received on the opening night with a degree of enthusiasm which proves it to be a permanent favourite, and promises a third season of popularity. We wish its author would write another such, instead of a dull, serious play like 'The Daughter.' The only important change in the cast was the performance of *Neighbour Constance* by Miss Taylor, in lieu of Mrs. Nisbett, who has made the character her own: Miss Taylor floated triumphantly on the dancing waves of woman's wilfulness, and waltzed in the airs of caprice *con amore*, but the actress was too apparent; and, wanting the charm of unsophisticated gaiety and hoydenish animal spirits, the character loses its raciness. We thought Mrs. Glover as the *Widow Green* was not so dulcet in her languishment as heretofore; Strickland, too, made the doting old lover a little too much of the pantaloons. Miss Mordaunt, in the sentimental part of *Lydia*, looked as if she could with difficulty repress a smile, though she took pains to be demure and serious. Mr. Walter Lacy is a much more dashing gallant than Mr. Glover, his predecessor in the part of *Master Waller*, but he is unfortunately deficient in refinement and earnestness: Hemming as *Truworth*, the main spring of the whole machinery of equivokes, shows a vein of grave pleasantry that is in good keeping with the quiet gentility of his manner. The new farce called 'A Wife for a Day,' written by Bernard, and, like all his productions, lively without vulgarity, is framed for the purpose of bringing out the sly quaint humour of the American comedian Hill, who is certainly the most agreeable actor that the Transatlantic stage has sent us. His perfect ease, and the utter absence of stage trick and manner, accord well with the shrewd cunning and rusticity of the Yankee characters he personates; his dialect has the genuine nasal twang, and he gives forth the preposterous jokes, almost amounting to witticisms from their excessive exaggeration, in a quiet 'slick' way that provokes laughter. By the bye, the great splash of blood which he exhibits to crown the disasters that befall him, is a ghastly piece of comicality not adapted to the English taste, though it created considerable merriment. Mademoiselle Clara essayed the voluptuous Cachucha in a pretty graceful manner, that promises well, when she shall have conquered her timidity. The new drop-scene exhibits a pastoral landscape, in which some cows are cooling themselves in a pool, with hot sanguineous shadows—apropos to the Haymarket, we presume. Farren is now added to the company, but as yet its full force does not appear.

Easter pieces are in preparation at all the theatres for the holiday folks, the Adelphi excepted, which closes for the season this week: at the Olympic 'Izaak Walton' will angle for popular applause.

## MISCELLANEA

**Aurora Borealis.**—The following is an abstract of a paper read by the Rev. H. Lloyd, at the Irish Academy, relating to a remarkable aurora which appeared at Dublin, on the 19th of January. The approach of this beautiful phenomenon was indicated in Dublin, at an early hour, by the disturbance of the magnets in the observatory. At five o'clock, both magnetometers testified the setting in of what Humboldt calls a "magnetical hurricane;" the disturbance in *declination* amounting in the course of a quarter of an hour, to 20.7 minutes, while the corresponding change in the *intensity* of the horizontal component of the magnetic force, was .0092, or nearly the one-hundredth part of the whole. Shortly before ten o'clock, a broad and brilliant arch was formed, the lower limb of which was beautifully defined. The remarkable feature in this phenomenon was the intense blackness of the sky beneath the arch, as contrasted with that exterior to it. The darkness of this space was such, as to resemble a dense cloud, fringed by the auroral light; and the doubt was suggested, whether the dark cloud noticed by many observers in connexion with aurora, may not have been an appearance of the same kind, though less regular in its outline. In the aurora of the 19th, the blackness of the space enclosed by the arch was certainly not due to the presence of a cloud, for the stars were distinctly visible in it. Mr. Lloyd stated, that he was so much interested in this part of the phenomenon, as to lose the opportunity of obtaining a measure of the altitude of the arch. Soon after ten o'clock, the arch began to break up into streamers. From this time, until half past eleven o'clock, Mr. Lloyd took no notes of the appearances, having been engaged in watching the motions of the magnetometers in the observatory. At half past eleven o'clock, the streamers were very splendid, and covered the whole sky, appearing to spring, however, chiefly from the N.E. They were remarkable for the intensity of their light; the irregularity of their forms (seldom affecting the usual rectilinear form), and their incessant dancing motion. At first, the flashes of light appeared in broad irregular masses, at considerable intervals over the sky, like scattered clouds illuminated by the moon, except that their appearance was momentary: or (as they have been described) like the jets of illuminated vapour, shot from the boiler of a locomotive engine. About twelve o'clock, they spread themselves over the face of the sky, and exhibited a nearer approach to their usual form. At this period, a distinct point of convergence, a little to the S.E. of the zenith, was occasionally exhibited; and a marked contortion of the auroral clouds, at this point, showed the tendency to the formation of the *corona*. There was likewise a stationary luminous cloud, to the S.E., which appeared to be connected with the phenomenon. After twelve o'clock, the brilliancy of the phenomenon in the upper part of the sky gradually lessened; but a very intense auroral light, with streamers, still remained in the N.W. The atmosphere was remarkably clear, and the stars very bright; the cloud-like patches of the aurora not seeming to present any obstacle to the transmitted light. There was a cold cutting wind, which came in gusts; and it seemed as if these gusts were simultaneous with the flashes of the aurora. Mr. Lloyd then presented a table, exhibiting the results of observation with the two magnetometers, one of which measures the changes of *declination*, and the other those of the *horizontal* part of the earth's magnetic force. The observations commenced at 10<sup>h</sup> 25<sup>m</sup>, and were continued, at intervals of three minutes, for one hour. The table contained the direct results of observation with the two instruments; the differences of these results and the means of the day (or the disturbances in *declination* and *horizontal* force), estimated in parts of the scale; and the same differences reduced to their proper measures. The extreme disturbance in *declination*, amounted to 17'.9; and that of the *horizontal* force to .0127. The changes of the horizontal component of the force arising partly from changes of the *total* force and partly from changes of *inclination*, and the part due to the latter being, in high magnetic latitudes, much the greater, it is manifest that the changes of inclination may be deduced, approximately, from those of the horizontal force, on the assumption that the actual force remains unvaried. The changes of

inclination, thus deduced, were given in another column of the table. The numerical values of the changes of *declination* and *inclination* thus obtained, were laid down in charts, so as to represent graphically the progress of the disturbance of each of the elements of the magnetic direction. In a third chart the combined effect of the two disturbances was represented, so as to exhibit the successive positions of the pole of the needle, supposed free to move in every direction. From this it appeared, that in the present instance, the effect of the auroral disturbance upon the resultant direction of the earth's magnetic force, has been to impress upon the pole of the needle a kind of epicycloidal movement.

**Cottage Premiums.**—The Highland and Agricultural Society lately decided to award premiums to the amount of £4 for the best kept cottages and cottage gardens in each of four parishes of a county, and to continue to award the prizes in the same county for four successive years. We learn from *The Quarterly Journal of Agriculture* that the result of the first year's trial has been most successful. The Minister of one of the parishes declares that such has been the improvement, that "no one can pass through the parish without being struck with the totally different aspect now presented by our gardens and cottages; and having occasion in the way of my duty to be frequently within the houses of the poor, I can safely say, that the external aspect is nothing more than a faithful index of the neatness and comfort and taste to be found within." The fund from which these premiums are paid is not all advanced by the society, but a guarantee is required from each parish to the extent of half, as a proof of the interest which the gentlemen connected with it take in the matter; and they are further expected to use their personal influence with the peasantry to induce them to come forward as competitors. There is not the least difficulty in prevailing upon them to go on in a course of improvement once begun: but the first step will scarcely ever be taken unless at the urgent desire of some one whose good opinion they wish to possess.

**Carnations.**—The winter of 1837-8 will be long remembered for its injurious consequences, and gardeners will particularly dwell upon the destruction which took place among the carnations. Only one of these collections in France escaped, and it may be worth while to record the means which tended to its preservation. The carnations are all planted in deep and narrow pots, and the earth in which they grow is stiffer than it generally is; in November they are placed on a stage, against a wall with a northern aspect, out of reach of the sun, where they remain till the end of March, or till vegetation begins to recover its powers. During this period they are very slightly watered three times only, however dry the earth may be, for fear the frost may surprise them while in a humid state. They are sheltered from rain, snow and hoar frosts, by mats placed over them in the form of a sloping roof, supported by rods three or four feet above the plants, so as not to prevent the circulation of air. In the above winter the earth in the pots was as dry and hard as a stone, and not a single carnation suffered, and they have been since covered with beautiful flowers.

**Wood.**—The experiments of M. Payen have led him to the conclusion, that the ligneous body so universally existing in phanerogamous vegetables, is not an immediate principle of vegetation, but that it is composed of two parts, chemically distinct. Having obtained the cellular tissue in its earliest state, from various ovula, and the radicles, or radicle fibrils of several plants, he only found in it various combinations of carbon, hydrogen, and oxygen, and consequently it was not truly ligneous, but that the thickening substance in the interior of the fibrous cells, is operated on by agents which have no effect on the elementary tissue, such as soda, potash, and azotic acid. Remarkable differences take place in the composition of woods, according to their species, and in the same species according to climates. Hence the proportion of carbon relative to that of hydrogen and oxygen, and the predominance of hydrogen over oxygen in the strongest woods. In combustion, an excess of hydrogen tends to the production of heat, and offers a reason for preferring what are called heavy woods, with the exception of the birch, which owes its superiority to a principle named betuline.

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